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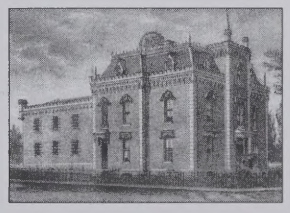
HISTORY OF
EARLY SCHOOLS
IN NOBLE COUNTY

A 120-year History of Schools
in Noble County, Indiana

•1834 through 1954•

HISTORY OF
EARLY SCHOOLS
IN NOBLE COUNTY

Researched, written and published by
BILL LANDON, ROBERT C. GAGEN, JR, & SARAH KNOPP



Noble County Historical Society
P.O. Box 152, Albion, IN 46701
2006

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Acknowledgments

The Noble County Historical Society
wishes to acknowledge the past work of
Noble County historian Thurlo Holcomb,
Valma Gilliland, and Robert Shanower.
Their foresight in gathering information and
taking photographs of the county's schools
was invaluable to our efforts.

In School Days

Still sits the schoolhouse by the road,
A ragged beggar sunning;
Around it still the sumacs grow,
And blackberry vines are running.

- Whittier

COVER: Schoolhouse photos on cover are at top from left: Charter Oak, Green Township; Port Mitchell, York Township; Avilla Common School, Allen Township. Bottom row from left: Sunday School, Orange Township; Haag School, Swan Township; North Elkhart Township School, Elkhart Township.

Education In Indiana

At the time Indiana became a state in 1816 its new constitution proclaimed that it would, "as soon as circumstances permit," create a general system of education.

As might be expected the "as soon as" clause did little to stimulate the construction and staffing of schools in the sparsely-settled and financially-constrained new state. As a result, where common schools existed during the next 35 years they were locally created, financed and controlled.

This state of affairs changed with the adoption of a new state constitution in 1851 and passage of the School Law of 1852 which made provision for the first time of the use of property tax for educational purposes.

However it was not until 1867, when a new school law was passed, that Indiana's common schools became firmly established. It was during the period of 1867 to 1887 that most of Noble County's one-room schoolhouses were built – with brick structures replacing crude log or frame structures.

Burr Oak School 1908

Noble Township – Clarence Zeigler, teacher

Elected by his township neighbors, the trustee had primary responsibility for these local schools, from the purchase of coal to the hiring of teachers. This local official remained, through World War I, the single most important decision maker for Indiana schools.

So it was that during the remainder of the nineteenth century one-room schoolhouses predominated throughout Noble County, with the exception of city schools in Kendallville, Ligonier, and Albion.

Some improvements in terms of consolidation were made early in the twentieth century as the result of local township initiative. Examples of this in Noble County were York Center and Wayne Center schools in the 1920s, whose creation led to the closing of several one-room schools. Even before this Elkhart Township closed its district schools and sent the students to either Wawaka or North Elkhart schools. Opening of a new school building in Albion in 1923 led to the creation of Albion-Jefferson School Corporation and the closing of some one-room schools in Jefferson Township.

Much of the slow development in school consolidation and improvement could be traced to the reluctance of township trustees to relinquish their arbitrary power in school affairs and a widely-held sentiment among parents and taxpayers generally that education which had been good enough for them was good enough for their children also.

Some residents viewed their local schools, especially the small high schools, as community centers, sources of local pride and identity.

District Schools Defined

Most early schools in Noble County were given names in a variety of ways – of owners of the land on which they were built, physical characteristics of the area or township in which they were located, or of nearby churches.

But they also had official numerical designation which often appeared on the stone blocks set above the door – many of which can still be seen today.

For example:

If you were to ask elderly residents of Green Township where District 8 School was they probably wouldn't know. But if you questioned them about Charter Oak School, they would most likely be able to locate it for you.

A typical congressional township consisted of nine square districts, each made up of four contiguous sections each, and a land area of four square miles. Each district had a school, located as near to the center of the district as possible, so that no student would have to walk more than two miles to school.

District School No. 1 would be located in the township's northeast corner, Nos. 2 & 3 to the west along the top tier, Nos. 4, 5 & 6 from west to east on the middle tier, and Nos. 7, 8 & 9 east to west in the bottom tier.

This is true of all Noble County's townships except Albion and Washington.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

The last page of each chapter in this book contains an accompanying 1893 copy of the township map. The authors have attemped to make the school locations easier for readers to find by giving each school a number that corresponds with a number on the map. Also, the county road numbering system was not yet established in 1893, so the modern names of county roads have been added.

Albion Township

Recognizing the inconvenience of having residents living east of Orange Street in Albion travel three miles to Jefferson Center to vote and those on its west side three miles to York Center, the citizens of Albion petitioned the Noble County commissioners to create Albion Township.

The commissioners agreed to this request in their June, 1854 term. Sections 18 and 19 of Jefferson and 13 and 24 in York were set off to be henceforth known as Albion Township. Having been designated the Noble County seat eight years earlier, the village of Albion seemed on its way to becoming a thriving settlement. Within a couple of years its population had grown to some 350 and in June, 1874, Albion was incorporated as a town.

The first term of school in Albion was taught during the winter of 1847-48 in a small log house owned by Ephraim Walters on the west side of Orange Street a few blocks south of the courthouse. About twenty scholars were enrolled for the three-month term. At that time Walters also owned the two-story frame structure built in 1847 by David Monroe to house the workmen of contractor Samuel Clymer of Benton engaged in building Albion's first courthouse.

By the summer of 1848 the growth of Albion had been so great that about sixty scholars were ready to attend school. Abel Barnum and his wife, natives of Connecticut, were the instructors in a log house owned by James Pepple.

In the winter term of 1849-50 Abel Warner, a clerk in the dry goods store of Clapp & Hitchcock, was engaged as teacher in a small frame building intended solely for use as a schoolhouse. It served in this capacity until 1863, when a large two-story frame structure at the southwest corner of East Hazel and South Liberty streets was built by James Prouty at a cost of about $1,500. It was later converted to a buggy factory by Henry Shirk.

Ever since the building of Albion's first schoolhouse in 1849 there had been disagreement among the townsfolk as to where the "temple of learning" should be located.

A number of residents, led by William Engle, wanted it in the section north of the courthouse. Others agreed with Isaac Swarthout that it should be located southeast of the courthouse. After considerable agitation Swarthout's followers prevailed and as site at the southeast corner of East South and Hickory streets (now the location of Hickory Hill apartments) was acquired in 1875. A contract was let for a four-story (including a half-basement) brick schoolhouse to contractor John Lichtenberger of Fort Wayne, with T. J. Tolan & Son, also of Fort Wayne, the architect.

When it became known that the school trustees expected town bonds to be issued to pay the cost of the building, a number of prominent and wealthy citizens, most from the town's north side, upon whom the burden of taxation would fall, stubbornly opposed the project.

These objectors, some forty in all, took their opposition to the circuit court, where they were defeated, and later unsuccessfully attempted to obtain an injunction to restrain town trustees from authorizing a $17,000 bond issue.

Albion Township

Perhaps as an ironic climax to the argument between the two parties it was discovered, quite by chance, that the contractor had fraudulently reduced the height of the upper story by nine inches, cut down the size of its upper windows, and failed to put plaster on in the required manner.

Work was allowed to proceed, but upon its completion the school trustees at first refused to accept the building. Finally the contractor became a beggar and pleaded with the trustees to have mercy. They ultimately agreed and the building was accepted with a reduction in price of about $900.

The building on Hickory Hill would serve as the Albion school until 1922, when a new brick and stone structure, with a gymnasium (no more basketball games upstairs in the Opera House), was built west of the present Albion Elementary School site on East Main Street. It later served as Central Noble Middle School until its demolition in 1985.

From 1923 until its demolition in 1969 the former Hickory Hill school served as an industrial plant – first where overalls were made and later wooden novelties.

In 1969 Wolf Lake High School and Albion-Jefferson High School were consolidated at Central Noble High School in Albion. Central Noble High School and Middle School in Albion are attended by students from Albion, Jefferson, Noble and York townships. Elementary schools remained in Albion and Wolf Lake.

Albion Public School – Fourth Grade – 1907

"Those early high school graduates might teach school by passing a teacher's examination, held monthly from January through August in the examination room in the courthouse and attending a teacher's training school for 12 weeks. An average of 85 percent without going below 75 percent in any subject entitled one to a 12-month teaching license."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

Albion Township

1 Albion School

SE corner Hickory & South Streets
Built 1876 – Demolished 1969

2 Albion-Jefferson High School

NE corner Main Street & Cougar Ct.
Built 1922 – Demolished 1986
Gym Still Standing

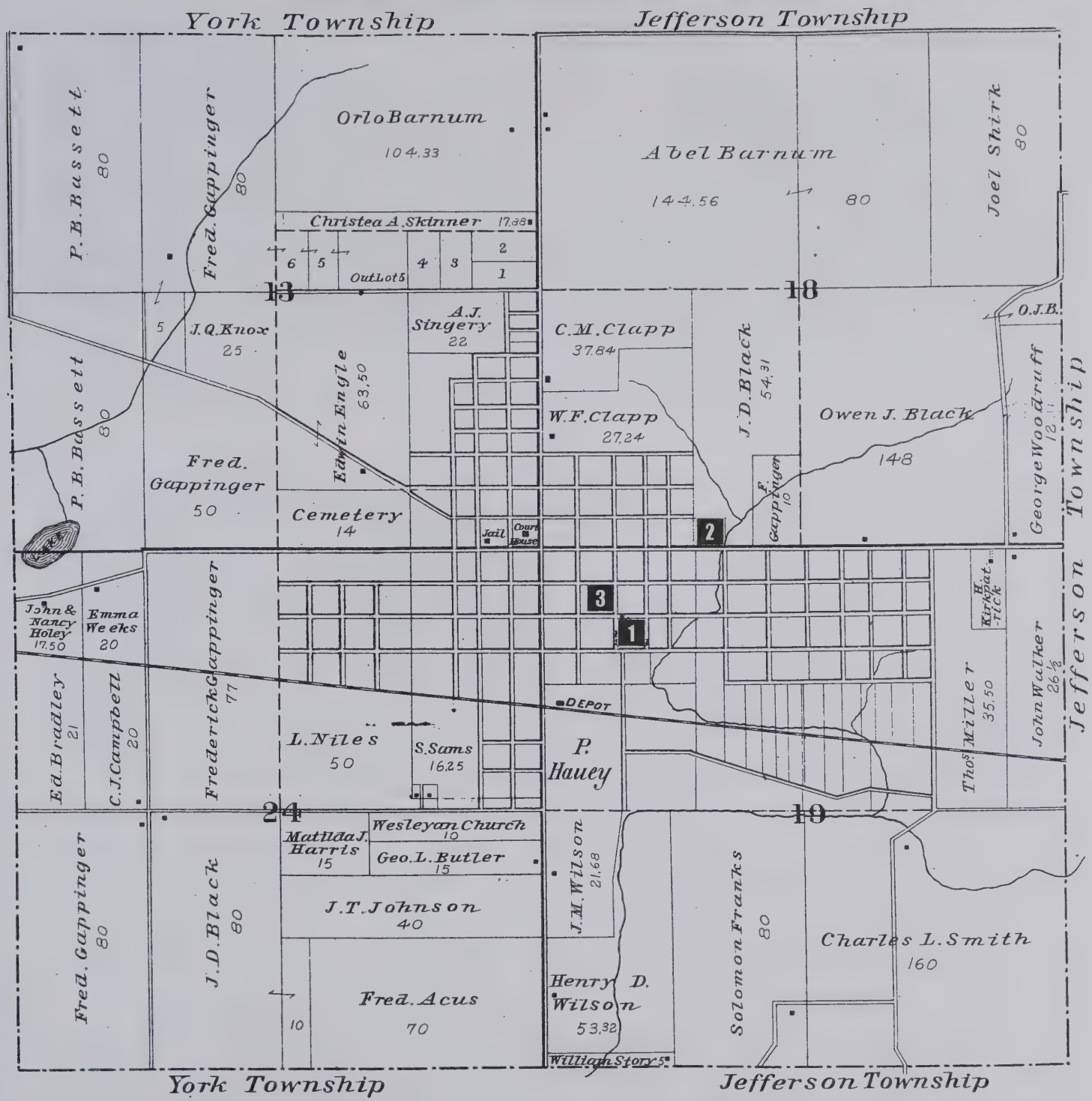
3 Early Albion School

Built 1850s
Southwest corner of East Hazel
& South Liberty Streets
Served as school until 1868,
Then converted into a two-story
buggy factory

"The last day of school was always looked forward to with pleasure. Usually the teacher and pupils had prepared a "last day program" to which the community was invited. The patrons often came early with well-filled baskets as a surprise dinner for the teacher, indicated their approval of the way she had taught the school. However, the surprise was generally too good to keep and some well-meaning little busybody would tell the teacher in advance."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

ALBION TOWNSHIP. - 1893



Allen Township

A windowless log schoolhouse in Section 4 on the south edge of what later became Kendallville was the site of Allen township's first schoolhouse in 1837. To bring some light into the dark interior, the logs were peeled to provide reflection. The only other source of light was a huge chimney-fireplace in an opening at one end of the building. It was made of sticks, stones and mud, mixed with hay to help hold the mud together. On dark, warm days the teacher would adjourn class to the schoolyard where better light was available.

Ten years later a larger, better-constructed building was put up on the nearby farm of Hiram Iddings and the old one abandoned.

Another early school, known as Allen Chapel, was built in the Alonzo Whitford neighborhood at the township's northeast corner. There many rousing "spelling bees," a popular entertainment of the time were held. Contemporary maps reveal another school in that vicinity, apparently also known as Allen Chapel.

Another schoolhouse was built about this time to serve the modest population of Avilla. It was succeeded by Singery and Turkey Pen schools to the west and east.

Later the typical school district arrangement was gradually implemented with Allen Chapel, Lisbon, and Maple Grove schools running east to west in the township's six northernmost sections.

South of them and covering the rest of the township in the latter part of the nineteenth century were Collier (Sec. 7), Mt. Pleasant (Sec. 18), Pieper (Sec. 24), and Germany (Sec. 21).

Avilla Schools

Avilla's first schoolhouse was an imposing two-story brick built in 1871 (still standing on Baum St.) serving districts 7 and 8 and costing $2,700. It employed two teachers, a rarity at that time, and had an enrollment of about 100. This was five years before Avilla was incorporated as a town.

Avilla High School came into existence in 1888, with a two-year course of study which was extended to three years in 1892. It was located between Walnut and Washington streets. In 1907 an addition was made to the building to accommodate a fourth high school grade. At this time a furnace and water system were installed and a custodian employed.

In 1908 the high school's first four-year class graduated. Its eleven members were Clara DeCamp, Edith Hudson, Mable Kinney, Regina Grosswege, Bessie Stewart, Ella Clark, Jessie Popejoy, John Clark, Roy Good, and Roy Weimer.

A piano and "physics cabinet" were added to the school's equipment in 1908, and in 1911 two bookcases were built in the science room. Formation of a school band and orchestra took place in 1913 and other improvements such as a school yearbook took place throughout the years.

A new school was built in 1928 to which several additions were made over the years. Avilla High School's last graduating class received diplomas in 1966, after which it became part of the East Noble School Corporation.

Allen Township

1 Allen Chapel School 1

Section 2 – 500N & 1050E – NE Corner

2 Germany School

Section 21 – NE corner 200N & 800E

3 Turkey Pen School

Section 26 – 1100E & 100N – NW corner

4 Singery School

Section 29 – 100N & 700E – NE corner

Allen Township Schools Not Pictured:

5 Allen Chapel School 2

Section 12 – 415N & 1100E – SE Corner

6 Collier School

Section 7 – 415N & 600E – NE Corner

7 Lisbon School

Built 1880 – Section 9
West of St. Rd. 3 Between
Lisbon Road & 500N

8 Maple Grove School

Section 5 – North Side of 500N
Between 700E & 800E

9 Mt. Pleasant School

Section 18 – St. Rd. 8 & 700E – NW Corner

10 Pieper School

Section 15 – 300N & 1000E – NW Corner

Allen Township

11 Lisbon School

Built 1908 – Section 9 – West of
Old St. Rd. 3 between Lisbon Rd. & 450N
Now a residence

13 Avilla Common School

Built 1871
Section 26 – 100 Baum Street
Now a Residence

"Men were hired to furnish wood for the term. The wood house was filled and was carried as needed by the teacher or a large boy. The teacher was allowed ten cents per day for the janitor work. If she hired someone to carry wood it would cost her more than ten cents."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher

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12 Avilla High School

Built 1888 – Between Walnut &
Washington Streets, Avilla

Avilla High School

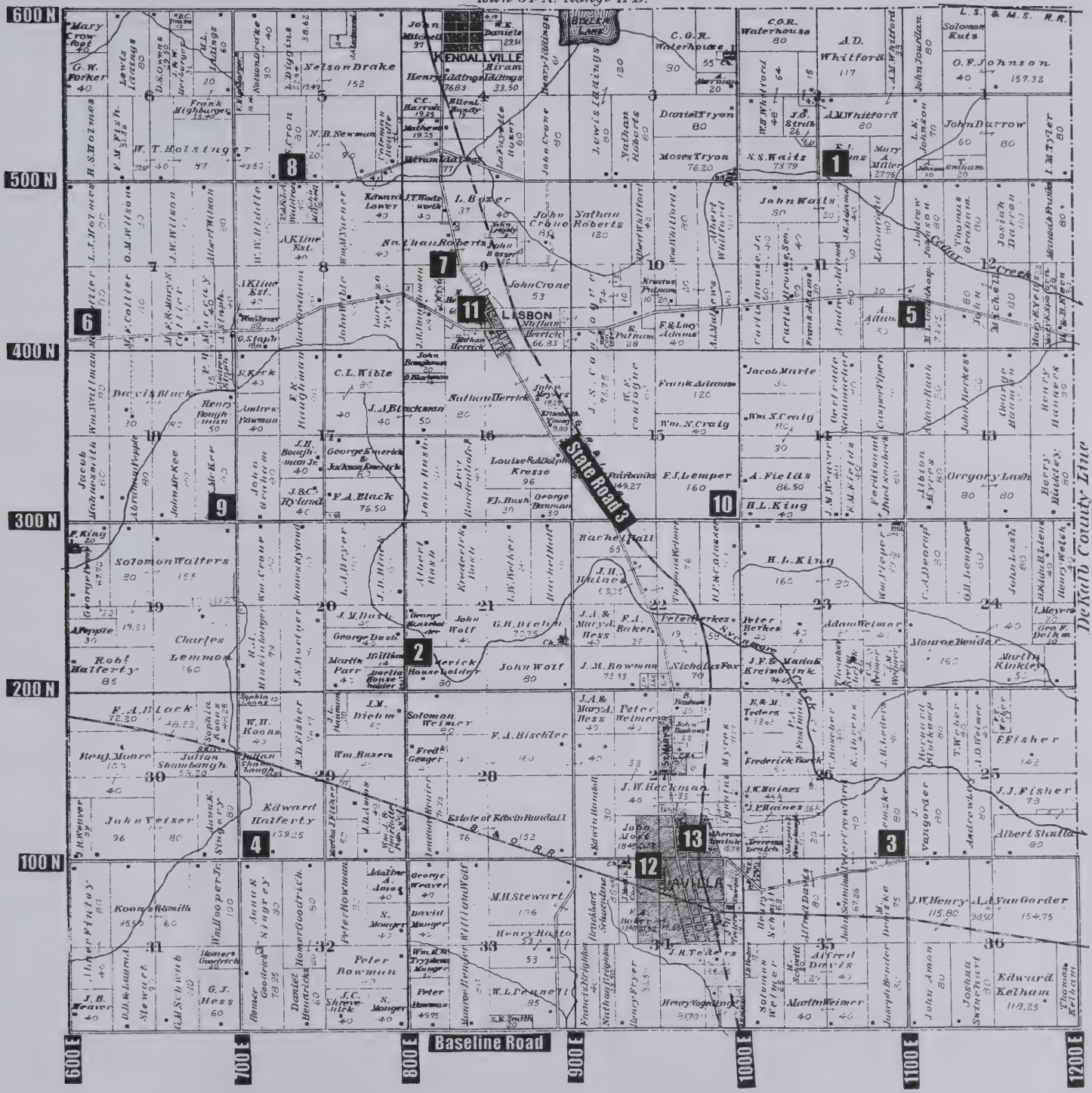
with 1893 Addition

Avilla School

Built 1928 – Washington Street

ALLEN TOWNSHIP. - 1893

Town 34 N. Range 11 E.



Elkhart Township

The first settler in Elkhart Township was Samuel Tibbott in 1832. He was raised in the Joel Bristol family at Merriam. Joel Bristol was the first settler in Noble County, and Samuel's uncle.

The first building in the county to be used exclusively for a school was a log cabin, 16'x16', built on the Diamond Lake Road in 1834. This structure was located on what is now 525W, about 1/4 mile south of U.S. 6. Cosperville was the first village in the township, located on the Elkhart River in 1838. It was known then as Springfield Mills. There was a log school there in 1837 and a frame school in 1845. Wawaka was platted in 1857 and soon outgrew Cosperville and became the primary and only other town in the township. The railroad and what became U.S. 6 greatly contributed to Wawaka's development. There was a log school in Wawaka in 1847, followed by a frame building in 1850 and a combo church/school on the Albion Road, south of U.S. 6. The latter was a two-story, brick structure. One story still remains and is used as a home. This school was used until 1899 when a frame building in town was used as the primary school. Finally, in 1910, a 2-1/2-story brick school was built in Wawaka. This school was used as a grade school and high school until 1967, when Elkhart Township consolidated with Ligonier, Cromwell, Perry, Sparta, and Washington Townships to form West Noble School Corporation. The "large" gym was built in 1935 through the WPA program. Wawaka continued as a grade school until 1983, when the students were transferred to the new West Noble Elementary School, and the school and gym were demolished.

Elkhart Township also built North Elkhart Grade School in 1916 and with that began closing the various one-room schools throughout the township. Elkhart Township was the first in the county to complete this "consolidation". North Elkhart was located on 1000 N., approximately 280 W., south side of the road. A modern log house is now located there.

Probably the most prominent graduate of Wawaka High School was Dr. Earl Butz in 1927. He became U.S. Secretary of Agriculture under Nixon and Ford from 1971-1974.

Wawaka High School – 1926

Elkhart Township

1 Elkhart Township School

Built 1870s – Wawaka
300W – 50 yards South of US 6

Elkhart Township School

Built 1870s – Wawaka (See Left)
Now a one-story residence

2 Wawaka School

School Built 1910 – Gym (right) Built 1935
Demolished 1983
Northwest Wawaka

3 Golden School

Built 1890
Section 30 – 525W & US 6 – SE corner
Now a residence

"The 'little red schoolhouses' began disappearing, perhaps in midterm when Elkhart Township built a four-room building north of Wawaka, called North Elkhart School in 1916. Green Township was the last to abandon the one-room schools in the mid-1950s."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

Elkhart Township

4 Kansas School

Section 20 – 450W & 900N – SW Corner
Now a residence

5 North Elkhart Twp. School

Section 15 – 280W & 1000N – south side

6 Pancake School

Section 4 – 350W & 1150N
Now a residence

"There was a well on the school grounds but it was often out of order as a result of vandalism and water was carried from a spring. There was no indoor plumbing and no electric lights."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early teacher and historian

Elkhart Township Schools Not Pictured:

7 Centennial School

Section 35 – 100W & US 6
SW Corner

8 Cosperville School

Section 21 – 300W & 900N
SW Corner

9 Eddy School

Section 1 – 80W on south side of Northport Road

10 Poplar Grove School

Section 8 – 500W & 1100N
SE Corner

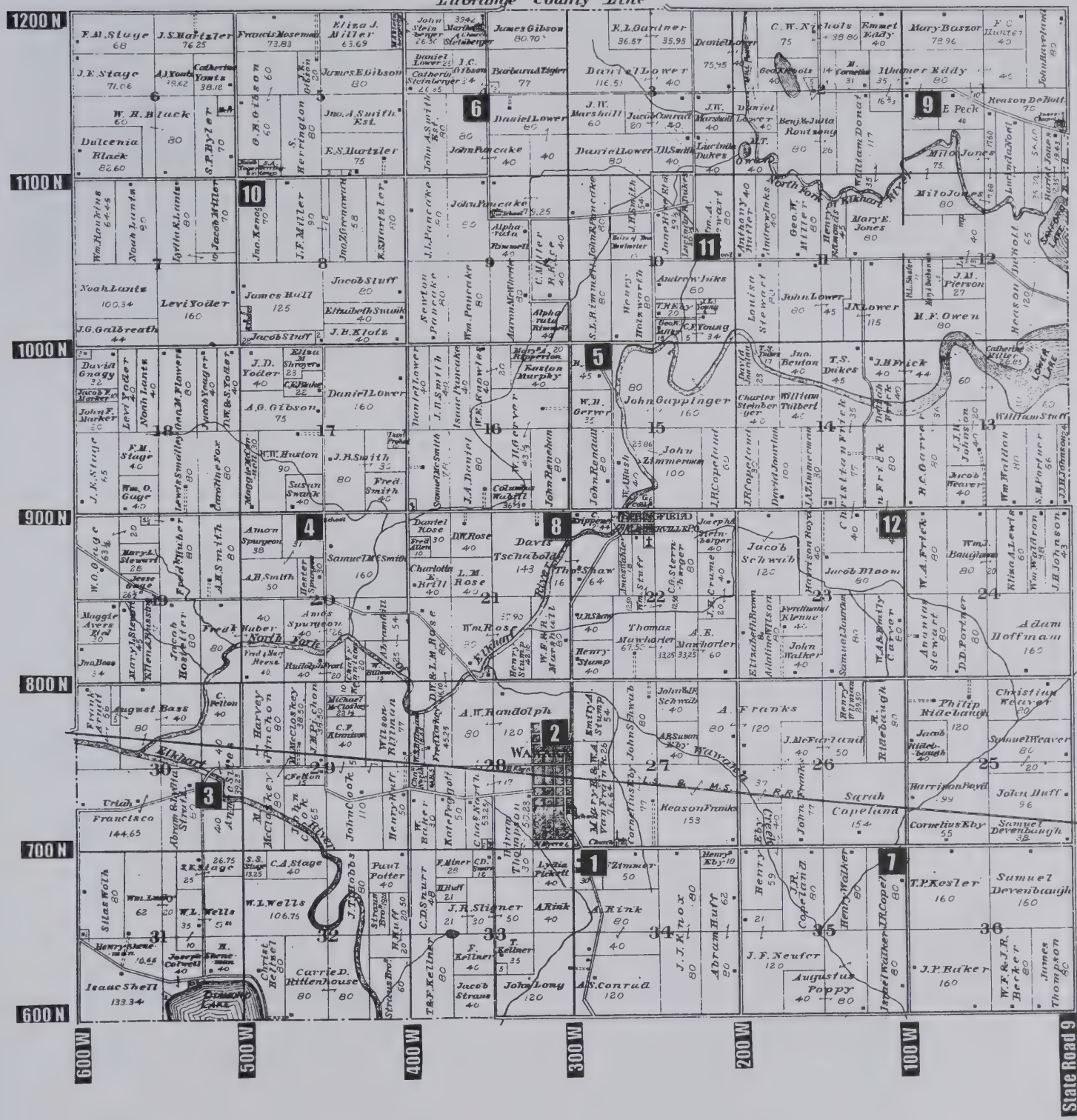
11 Rice School

Section 10 – 225W & 1050N
NE Corner

12 Union School

Section 23 – 100W & 900N
SW Corner

ELKHART TOWNSHIP. - 1893



GREEN TOWNSHIP

Green Township bears the dubious distinction of being the last one in Noble County to close its one-room district schoolhouses and send all its student to a consolidated facility in its geographic center. This facility – Green Center – served as a K-8 school from 1954 to 1983.

Green Township is also unique among its county counterparts for having elected to become part of Smith-Green School Corporation in 1962, rather than join a Noble County-based school corporation.

The earliest schoolhouses in Green were built in the 1840s by residents who desired to have their children educated. The first of these was in the township's southeast corner where later was located the brick Cherry School. Among the early settlers who helped construct this building were George Ott, William McDaniel, David Bonar, Samuel Gray, and Robert Gaff. An 18 x 22 log structure, it had all the characteristics of the primitive schoolhouses of that time – outside mud and stick chimney that served as a vent for the fireplace within, desks and seats made of rude plank lumber from a nearby sawmill, two small windows, and a puncheon floor. William Sanford, who named the schoolhouse Oxford, was its first teacher.

Also built in the 1840s was a log structure near William Bowen's property which came to be known as Stanley, for nearby landowner Henry Stanley. There were a succession of frame and brick school buildings at that location, the latest now serves as the nature center at Chain O' Lakes State Park.

By the mid-1870s Green's nine schoolhouses, mostly brick, were laid out in the traditional township pattern: three located in the northern section – Summit, Stanley, and Mulberry; three more in the central section – Green, Center, and Huckleberry, and in the south – Sugar Grove, Charter Oak, and Cherry. As was customary all were approximately two miles apart.

The first of these to close was Mulberry, in 1930. It stood on land now part of Chain O' Lakes State Park. The next was Summit, in 1938. It is now a private residence. Cherry, at the site of the township's first school, followed in 1939, and in 1949 Sugar Grove, where the township's first Parent-Teacher Association was formed. Hazel Lint and Howard Workman were among those who first taught there.

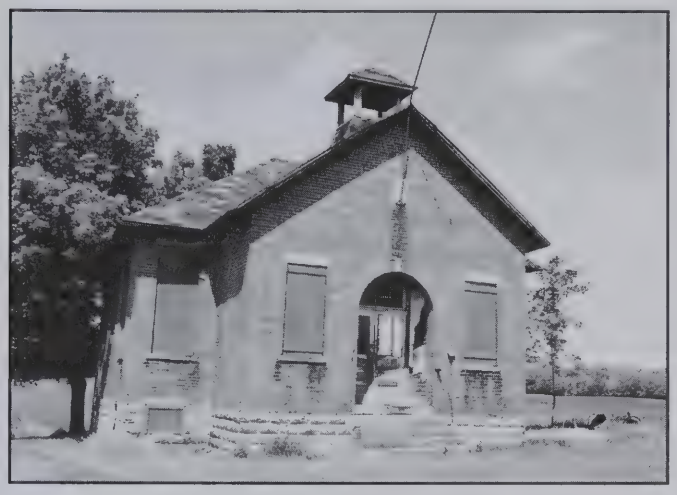
Following these closings consolidation of a sort began to take place in the township. From 1944 to 1949 Huckleberry and Green housed the primary grades and Green Center, Charter Oak, and Sugar Grove the upper grades. From 1949 to 1954 grades 1-3 were located in Huckleberry and Green, 4-6 in Charter Oak and Stanley, and 7-8 at Green Center.

Green Center Consolidated School opened in the fall of 1954 on a ten-acre site part of which was bought from Harry Hollopeter. At that time K-8 students from Stanley, Charter Oak, Huckleberry, Green, and Green Center moved in.

Teachers over the years included Claude Noe, Jesse Noe, Nina Appleman, Wilbur Smith, Leonora E. Geiger, Mary Hilliard, and Hazel Baker.

Today students from Green Township attend school in Churubusco in Whitley County.

Green Township



1 Charter Oak School

Built 1914

Section 28 – 500S & 300E – NW Corner

Still Standing

2 Cherry School

Section 29 – 100E & 500S – NE Corner

3 Green Center School

Section 21 – 300S & 300E – SW Corner

4 Green School

Section 18 – 300S & 100E – NW Corner

Still Standing

5 Huckleberry School

Built 1910 – Burned 2003

Section 13 – 300S & 500E – NE Corner

Green Township

6 Mulberry School

Section 6 – 75E – Location near
Chain 'O Lakes State park Entrance

7 Stanley School

Built 1915 – Section 4 – Now Nature
Center in Chain 'O Lakes State park

8 Sugar Grove School

Section 26 – 500E & 500S – NW Corner
Demolished in 2001

9 Summit School

Section 11 – 100S & 500E – SW Corner
Now A Residence

"My grandmother Clucas attended one of the log schools in Green Township in the 1850s and 60s. The pupils sat on benches made by splitting a log in half and smoothing off the worst of the splinters and putting four large pegs in for legs. Their McGuffy's Reader and other books lay on the bench beside them and they wrote on their slates held in their laps."

- Helen Dawson Miller, early Noble County student and teacher

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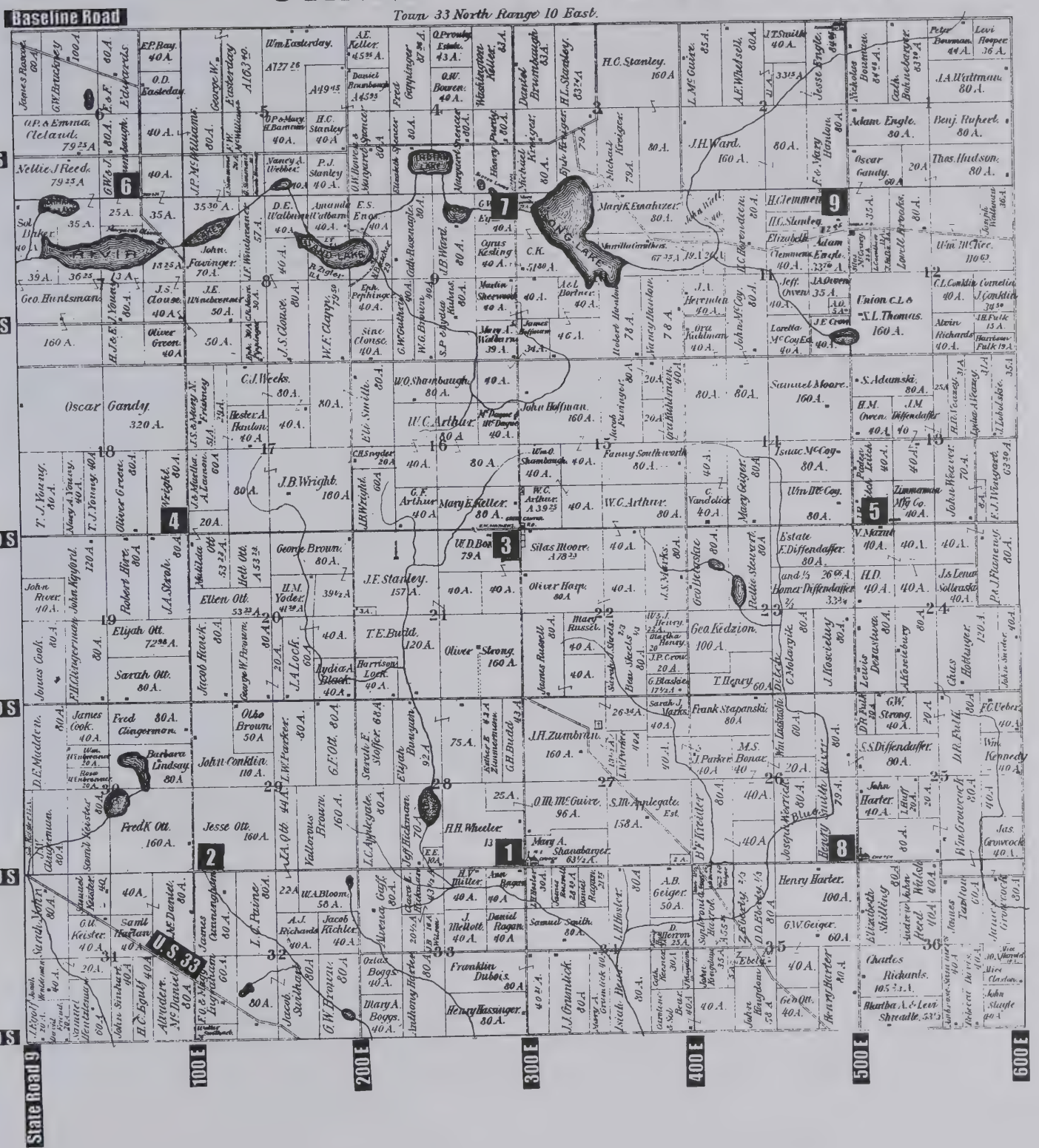
GREEN TOWNSHIP. - 1893


Baseline Road
Town 33 North Range 10 East.
100 S
200 S
300 S
400 S
500 S
600 S
100 E
200 E
300 E
400 E
500 E
600 E
State Road 9
U.S. 33
LONG LAKE
SILVER LAKE
Oscar Gandy 320 A.
Fred K Ott 160 A.
Jesse Ott 160 A.
J.H. Zumbrun 160 A.
Frank Stapanski 80 A.
Samuel Moore 160 A.
Isaac McCoy 80 A.
Union C.L.& X.L. Thomas 160 A.
Charles Richards 105 3/4 A.
Henry Harter 100 A.
J.H. Ward 160 A.
H.C. Stanley 160 A.
John Hoffman 160 A.
J.B. Wright 160 A.
J.F. Stanley 157 A.
T.E. Budd 120 A.
Geo. Kedzion 100 A.
Oliver Strong 160 A.
Jesse Engle 84 A.
Adam Engle 80 A.
Benj. Rupert 80 A.
Thos. Hudson 80 A.
Geo. Huntsman
Oliver Green 40 A
Barbara Lindsay 80 A.
John Conklin 110 A.
Valorous Brown 160 A.
Franklin Dubois 80 A.
Henry Wasinger 80 A.
Mary A. Shanabarger 63 1/2 A.
Mary K. Emahizer 80 A.
Estate F. Diffendaffer 80 A.
Homer Diffendaffer 33 1/3 A.
Geo. Wickersham 80 A.
Elijah Ott 72 3/8 A.
Sarah Ott 80 A.
Ellen Ott 53 2/3 A.
Mattie Ott 53 2/3 A.
Beth Ott 53 1/3 A.
Union C.L.& X.L. Thomas 160 A.
Zimmerman Mfg. Co. 40 A.
Wm. Kennedy 40 A.
Jas. Crowrock 40 A.
Chas. Bottinger 120 A.
Jas. Lewis Dotsenbach 80 A.
Wm. Dotsenbach 80 A.
Jacob Hawk 80 A.
Geo. Brown 80 A.
Silas Moore 78 29
Wm. Easterday 127 26
Wm. Easterday 163 40
Wm. Easterday 49 45
Wm. Easterday 45 95 A.
Wm. Easterday 43 A.
Wm. Easterday 87 3/4 A.
Wm. Easterday 63 A.
Wm. Easterday 63 1/4
Wm. Easterday 79 A.
Wm. Easterday 80 A.
Wm. Easterday 80 A.
Wm. Easterday 80

Jefferson Township

As with most 20th-century Indiana one-room schoolhouses, those in Jefferson Township were, for the most part, named for the property owner on whose land they were built – Foster, Hill, Anspaugh, Sweet, Kline, and Harvey. Zion and Rehoboth were named for nearby churches, Jefferson Center for its geographic location, and Mount Salem for the small community in which it was located, one-and-one-half miles due east of Albion. Only Hazel College defies explanation. Just one of these buildings still stands – Sweet, which has been converted to a residence.

Zion schoolhouse, with the largest enrollment in Jefferson Township, was destroyed by fire Jan. 6, 1910. Ellen Moorhouse was the teacher. Harvey School, two miles to the west, which had been abandoned six years earlier, was reconditioned and occupied by 36 pupils. A new brick Zion school was built on the southwest corner of CR 500E and CR500N. It was taken down in 2004.

Zion School – 1896

Ellen Moorhouse, Teacher

Schoolhouse Sanitation – 1909

Small drinking cups and free-flowing faucets for drinking will replace large tin cups and water buckets. All desk tops and banisters must be washed with soap and water and treated with an antiseptic. Slates are condemned because the children clean them with saliva. The practice of collecting pencils and pens are condemned because the children chew the ends. There will be no overcrowding of schoolrooms.

- State Board of Health

Jefferson Township

1 Foster School

Section 13 – St. Rd. 8 & 500E – NE Corner

2 Hill School

Section 25 – 500E & 100N – NE Corner
Demolished 2003

3 Jefferson Center School

Built 1883
Section 21 – 300E & 275N – SW Corner

4 Kline School

Section 8 – 100E & South Side of 500N

"Now keep in mind one teacher could not be everywhere at the same time so she had some signals: One finger up meant we needed to talk to another student about the lesson; Two fingers up meant we needed to use the toilet (only one person could go outside at a time); three fingers up meant we were done with whatever we were doing and wanted to go to the play table; whole hand up meant we needed to ask the teacher a question."

- Don Bortner, student at Jefferson Center 1930s

Jefferson Township

5 Rehobeth School

Built 1877

Section 28 – 275E & 125N – SW Corner

6 Sweet School

Section 10 – 325E & 415N – South Side

Now a Residence

7 Zion School

Built 1910

Section 11 – 500E & 500N – SW Corner

Demolished in 2004

Jefferson Township Schools Not Pictured:

8 Anspaugh School

Built 1899

Section 31 – 100N & 75E – SE Corner

9 Harvey School

Section 3 – 500N & 300E

NE Corner

10 Hazel College

Section 32 – Baseline Rd. & 200E

NW Corner

11 Prouty School

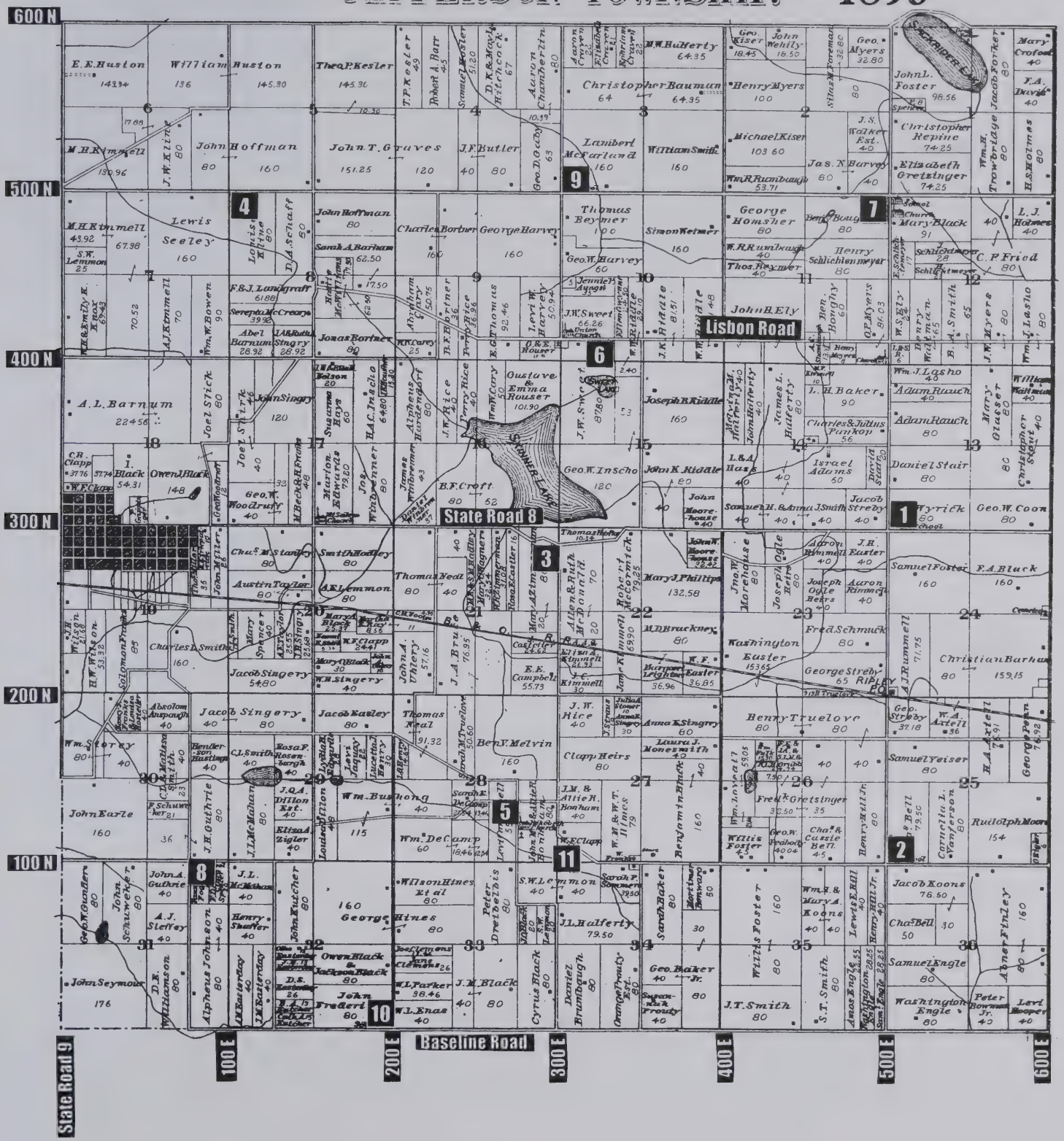
Section 27 – East side of 300E

1/4 Mile North of 100N

"One of the teachers at Mullin School (York Township), Lilly Kilgore, roomed and boarded with my grandmother Dawson. I believe the amount paid was a dollar a week. My grandmother also packed her lunch and washed, ironed and sewed for her for this dollar."

- Helen Dawson Miller, early Noble County student and teacher

JEFFERSON TOWNSHIP. - 1893



Noble Township

"There is some doubt as to the first school taught in the township."

So begins the section on Noble Township schools from the 1882 Goodspeed "History of Noble County."

It proceeds to state that it was "probably" in 1834-35 at a private dwelling in Wolf Lake with a Mrs. Stephens the teacher. During the summer of 1836 Charity Haines taught in one room of a double log cabin belonging to Jackson Humphreys about a mile-and-a-half northwest of Wolf Lake on the heavily-travelled Fort Wayne to Goshen Road.

In the 1882 Goodspeed history James C. Stewart was of the opinion that the first building intended for a schoolhouse in the township was constructed in 1840 at Burr Oak. It was replaced by a brick building in 1882. Rev. Peter Winebrenner, long-time pastor at the Merriam Christian Church, placed the building of the first Burr Oak school at 1842, and believed the Chapel Schoolhouse, near his church, dated from 1840. Goodspeed split the difference by declaring "these two houses were built very nearly the same time, and not far from 1840."

During the 1840s Elder Solomon Wedge taught school at Wolf Lake in the front room of his home. Later classes were held in the old Baptist Church until construction of a frame schoolhouse in 1850.

Just where Wolf Lake students attended school for the next 30 years or so is uncertain. There is no documentation of its schools during this period. No doubt they were held in various homes, churches, and vacant buildings.

A two-story, four-room brick "high school" was built in 1883 and continued to serve village youth until 1915, when a new school building was erected. A separate gymnasium was added in 1923, and vocational agriculture shop in the late 1930s.

After fire destroyed the gym in 1955 a new gym and grade school were built on the site in 1958. Both are used today as Wolf Lake Elementary.

Late in the nineteenth century ten one-room district schools were operating in the township, as well as one in Wolf Lake. They were spaced in the typical two-mile separation from each other.

One by one, due to declining enrollment and inadequate buildings, most poorly heated and lighted, with outhouses, and drinking water obtained from nearby streams or lakes, springs, or wells, they began to close and consolidate. Jones Hollow on Leesburg Road closed in 1890, Pleasant Lake in 1922, Little Lake in 1926, and Stults and Bug Island in 1928, all sending their pupils to Wolf Lake. Wildcat, Burr Oak, Chapel, and Poplar consolidated at the new three-room, 1-8 school at Merriam in 1914. It closed in 1957.

In 1969 Wolf Lake High School and Albion-Jefferson High School were consolidated at Central Noble High School in Albion. Central Noble High School and Middle School in Albion are attended by students from Albion, Jefferson, Noble and York townships. Elementary schools remained in Albion and Wolf Lake.

Noble Township

1 Bug Island School

Built 1891

Section 30 – 500S & 525W – NW Corner

2 Burr Oak School

Built 1870

Section 12 – 200S at About 100W

3 Burr Oak School

Built 1882

Section 12 – 50W & 200S – NE Corner

4 Chapel School

Built 1882

Section 24 – 400S & US 33 – NE Corner

Albion New Era – 1877

"Allow me, through the columns of the Albion New Era to tender my sincere and heartfelt thanks to the students of room No. 4 of Albion Public School for the present of a beautiful silver cup and handsome penknife. I would also add that it is my greatest desire that the love existing between students and teacher may continue to burn as brightly until time shall be no more."

Blanche McMahan, Teacher

Noble Township

5 Little Lake School

Section 27 – 500S & 300W – NE Corner

6 Merriam School

Built 1914 – Now A Residence
Section 25 – 75 W North side of U.S. 33

7 Pleasant Lake School

Section 3 – Wolf Lake Rd.
East Side of Pleasant Lake

8 Poplar School

Built 1889 – Still Standing
Section 15 – North Side of 275S
About 275 W

"My mother said that most of the children she went to school with were so very, very poor. There were two little boys who brought their lunch in a tin pail and all they had day after day was beans boiled in salt water. The beans were poured directly into the bucket and two spoons stuck in for them to eat with. My mother felt so sorry for them that Grandmother Clucas would find room in my mother's pail for an extra two slices of apple butter bread, two pieces of fried chicken or a couple of Northern Spy apples for the boys."

- Helen Dawson Miller, early Noble County student and teacher

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Noble Township

9 Seventh Day Adventist School

Built 1900

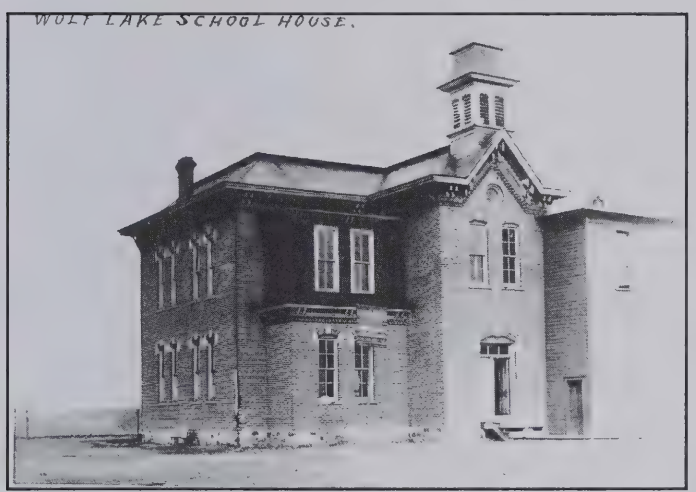
Section 3 – 1/4 Mile NE of 300W

North Side of Wolf Lake Road

10 Wildcat School

Section 35

East Side of St. Rd. 9 & About 500S



11 Wolf Lake High School

Built 1882

Section 9 – Main Street in Wolf lake

Noble Township Schools Not Pictured:

12 Jones Hollow School

Section 6 – north Side of 100S

West of US 33 and About 525W

13 Chapel School

Section 24 – Near Christian Chapel in Merriam – Burned in 1879

14 Stults School

Built 1876

Section 17 – 500W & 300S

NE Corner

Wolf Lake High School

Built 1914

Section 9 – Main Street

In Wolf lake

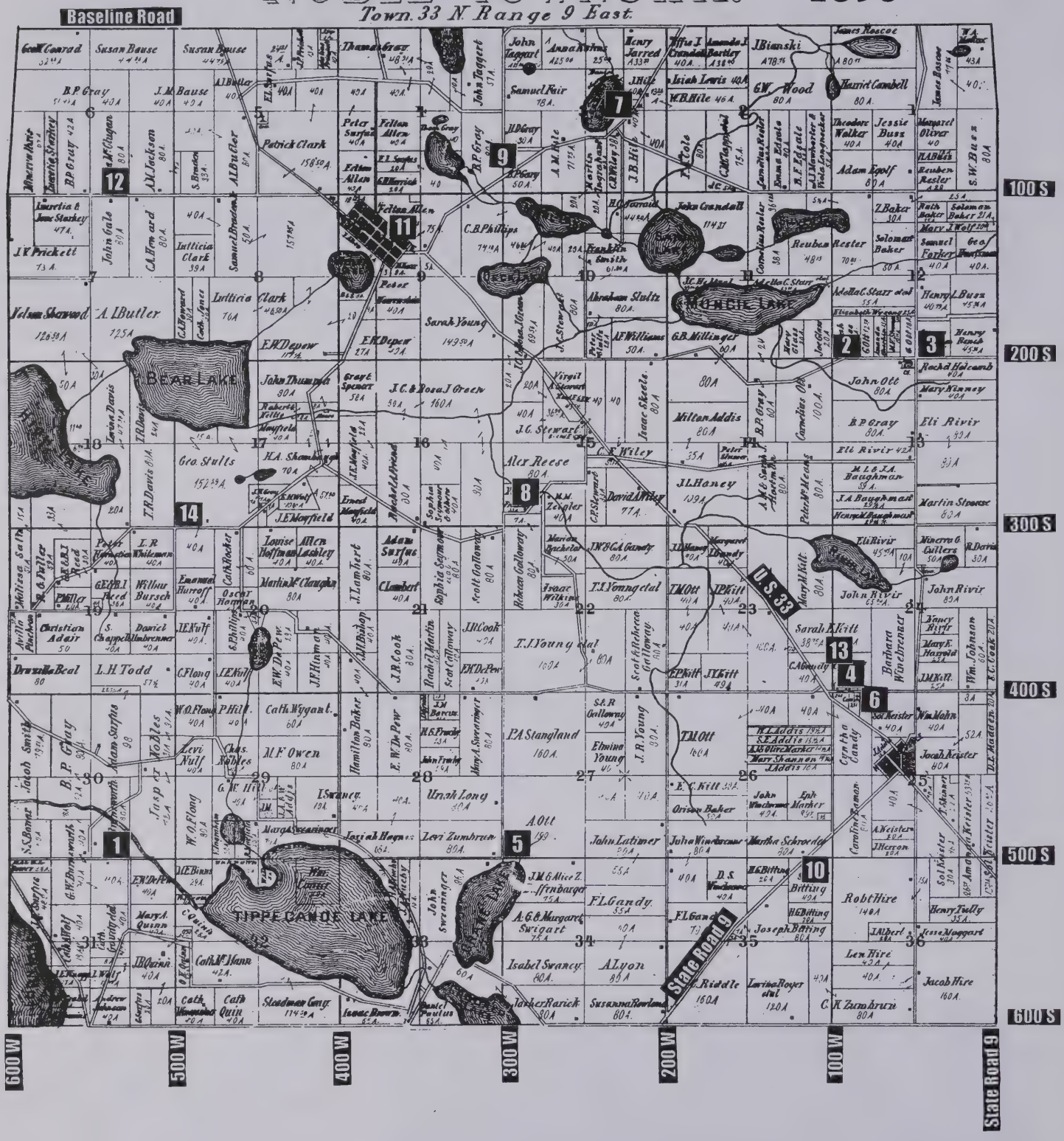
Gymnasium on right built 1923

Current Location of

Wolf Lake Elementary

NOBLE TOWNSHIP - 1893

Town. 33 N. Range 9 East.



Orange Township

It is not known for certain who was the first settler in Orange Township. It was probably in the year 1833 or 1834 when it was part of LaGrange County. Orange Township was said to be a good hunting area as at least two Indian villages were located there. One was at Sylvan Lake, near the "Narrows", and the other near Waldron Lake. Noble County was "wild and wooley" in 1836 and as the county experienced growing pains, counterfeiters and horse thieves overran the area. Northport was the first village in 1838, laid out by Francis Comparet. He was a French trader with many years experience dealing with the Indians. Northport was doomed when Rome City was started in 1839. Rome City continued to grow and prosper as the mineral springs were widely sought as a cure all for many ailments. The Grand Rapids and Indiana Railroad came from Kendallville through Rome City in 1874 and Sylvan Lake was being developed as the "Chautauqua of the West". Sylvan Lake was dammed and intended to be a feeder for the great canal that was to run from Fort Wayne to Michigan City on Lake Michigan. The canal was never built and the coming of railroads transported thousands to the meetings, seminars, etc. of the "Chautauquas". These events were held from 1878 until 1906, when they were discontinued for economic reasons.

The first "school" was a combined church and school in Northport in 1839. By 1844 a log schoolhouse was erected in Rome City. This building was used intil 1857 when a frame building was constructed. In 1844, various log schools were built throughout the township.

About 1869, another frame structure school was built in Rome City and was said to be very commodious. In 1892 Rome City was accredited as a 3-year high school. The first and only graduate that year was George Milnor. A fine, 2-1/2-story brick building was erected in Rome City in 1910, the gym was added in 1939. It was used until the consolidation into East Noble School Corporation in 1966. At present Rome City Elementary and Middle Schools exist on the same site.

Brimfield, the only other town in Orange Township, had a log schoolhouse in 1842, a 1/2 mile north of town. By 1852, a frame schoolhouse was built just south of the Southern Michigan and Northern Indiana Railroad bridge. It was used for 20 years, when a 2-storied frame structure was erected. Brimfield has had good schools from the beginning, it was noted. In 1921 on the north side of Brimfield's Main Street was erected a fine brick school building. Though somewhat dilapidated, it still stands, surrounded by dense growth. Ford Frick grew up in Brimfield and graduated from Rome City High School in 1910 and went on to become Commissioner of Baseball from 1951 to 1965. He is a member of Baseball's Hall of Fame.

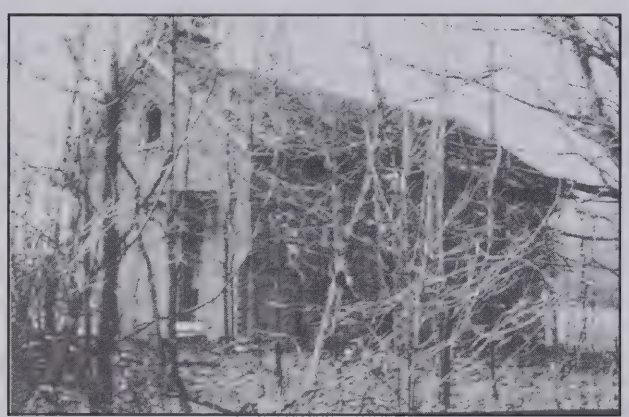
"Nothing gave the teacher more distress nor the pupils more joy than when the stove belched out a volume of smoke and soot and tore the joints of pipe apart, strewing ash and soot in generous amounts upon everything in the room. Of course, the pupils were permitted to go home, but the perplexed teacher had to contact her township trustee in some manner or summon cooperative parents upon which she knew she could depend. "

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

Orange Township

1 Brimfield School

Built 1921 – 150E – NE side of Brimfield Grade School – Still Standing



3 Oak Grove or Grannis School

Section 1 – 550E & 1100N on Angling Road – NW Corner

"The Kendallville School Board approved these salaries for the 1891 school year: Superintendent Fleisher, $1200; Principal Hester, $800; and teacher Miss Poppy, $350."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher

2 Sunday School

Built 1860s or 1870s

Section 20 – 175E & 850N SE Corner

Probably Oldest Standing Schoolhouse in Noble County

Orange Township Schools

4 Cazier or Faux School

Section 33 – 300E & US 6 – SW Corner

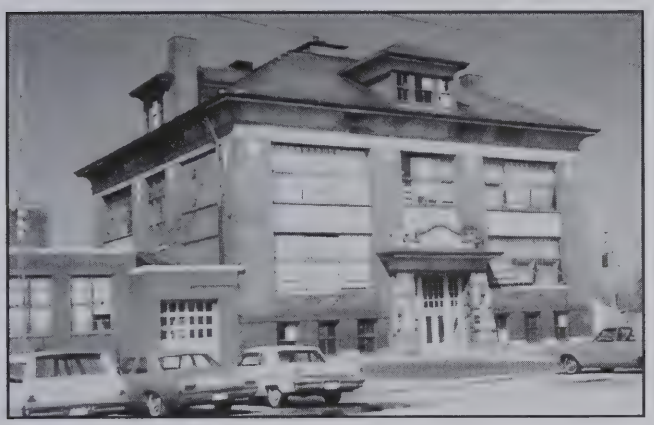
5 Center Chapel School

Section 23 – 450E & 800N – NW Corner

6 Shroyer School

Section 10 – 350E & Northport Rd. SW Corner

ORANGE TOWNSHIP



7 ROME CITY HIGH SCHOOL

BUILT 1910 – ROME CITY
THREE BLOCKS W OF ST. RD. 9 ON JEFFERSON ST.
(NOW SITE OF ROME CITY ELEMENTARY
AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS)

"It's difficult to say exactly when, where or by whom Noble County hot lunches in schools were started. When Thermos bottles came into general use many children took milk, hot chocolate, hot soup and even hot dogs for lunch. In about 1927 a teacher, Mrs. Strouse of Kendallville who taught at Foster School in Jefferson Township provided a hot dish of some kind for her pupils.

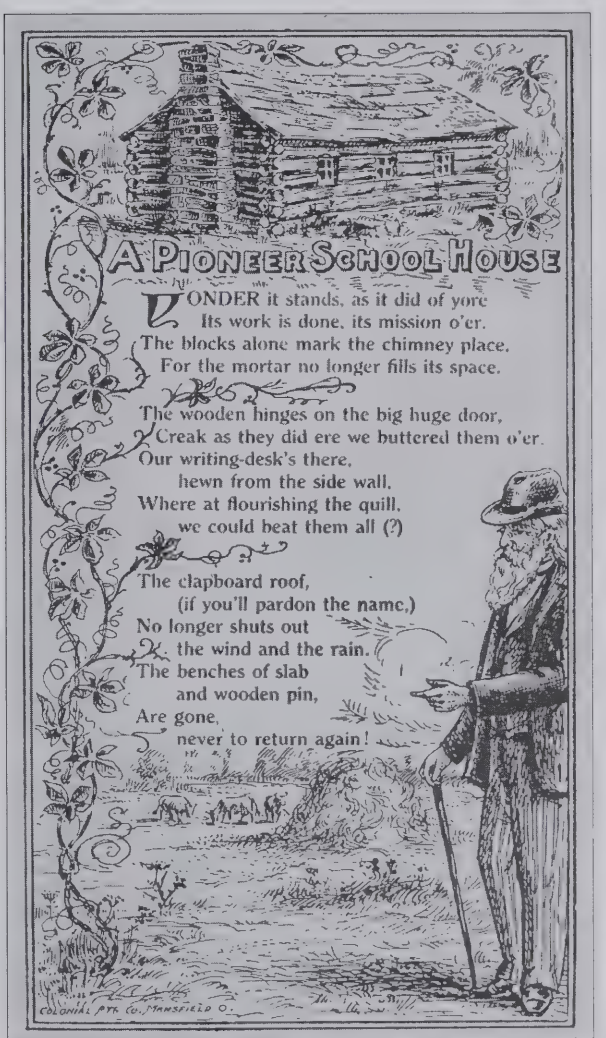
♦ ♦ ♦

An outstanding feature contributing to the intercommunity relationship was the practice of visiting other schools. Large boys were dismissed early enough in the morning that they could go home have lunch and return to school with team and bob-sleds or hay rack, depending on weather or roads, in time for the trip. It was a hilarious ride to the neighboring school. Once there, the group led by the teacher, quietly approached the building and all burst in with a war-whoop which was followed by an hour or more of friendly fun and contests. All returned to their school the next morning for a rehash of their yesterday, and a renewed interest in their school life."

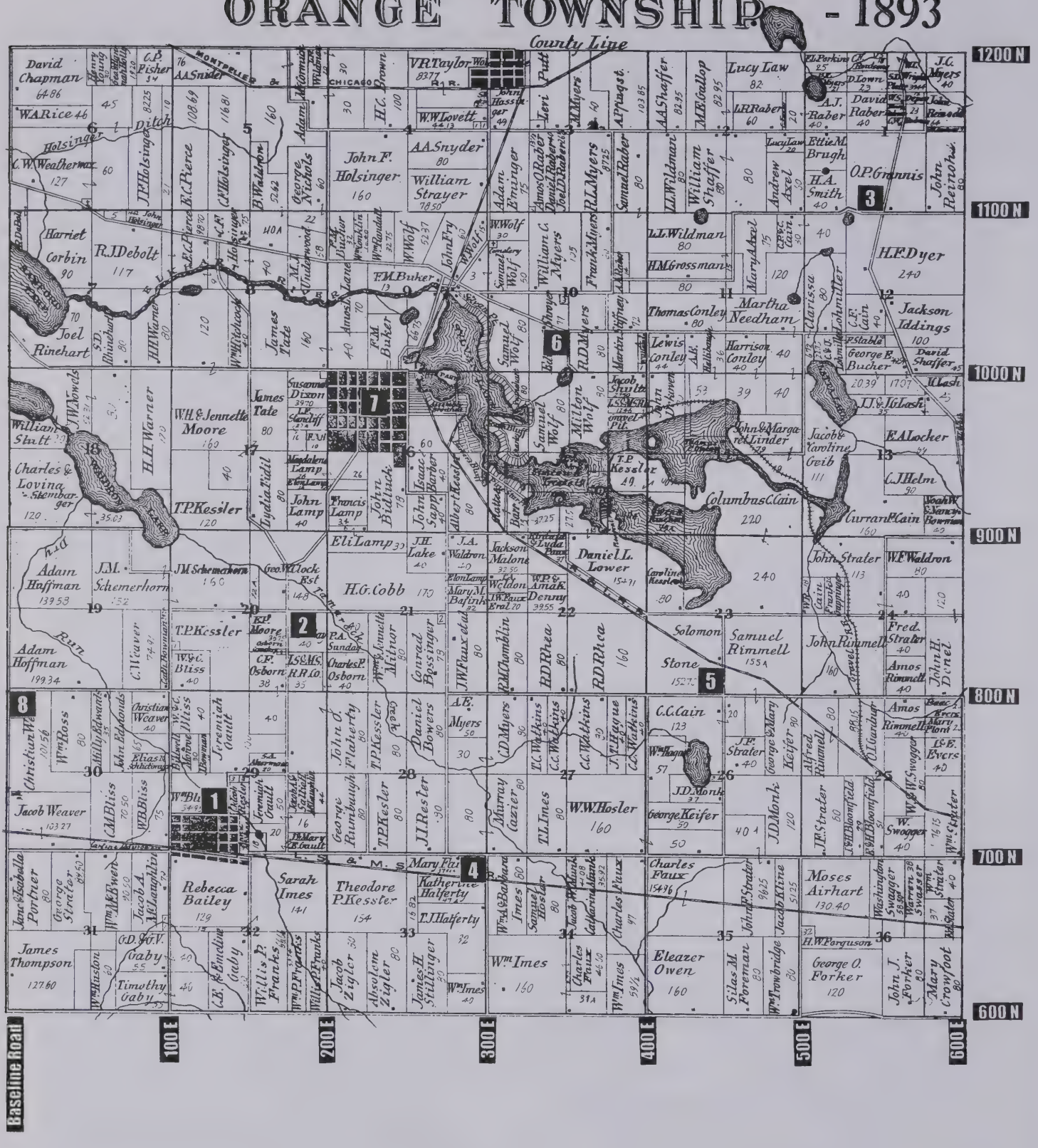
– Thurlo Holcomb

8 WEAVER SCHOOL

BUILT 1864
(OLDEST PICTURE IN COLLECTION)
SECTION 30 – BASELINE 800N ON SE CORNER


A PIONEER SCHOOL HOUSE
YONDER it stands, as it did of yore
Its work is done, its mission o'er.
The blocks alone mark the chimney place,
For the mortar no longer fills its space.
The wooden hinges on the big huge door,
Creak as they did ere we buttered them o'er.
Our writing-desk's there,
hewn from the side wall,
Where at flourishing the quill,
we could beat them all (?)
The clapboard roof,
(if you'll pardon the name,)
No longer shuts out
the wind and the rain.
The benches of slab
and wooden pin,
Are gone,
never to return again!
COLONIAL PTG. CO. MANSFIELD O.

ORANGE TOWNSHIP - 1893



Perry Township

The old Fort Wayne-Goshen Trail went through Perry Township and Perry's Prairie was very desirable farm ground in the early days of Noble County. The first post office, Good Hope, was located on the Henry Miller farm in 1834. The first settler was Levi Perry in 1830, for whom the township was named, and also the second settler in the county. The first court was held at Adam Engle's house in 1836.

Perry Township had 10 one-room schools – none are there now.

Perry Central was built in 1917 and consolidated many of the one-room schools. It is located at 900 N & 870 W, and is now used as a church. Perry Central students attended through the 8th grade, then the students went to Ligonier High School. Perry Central was consolidated into West Noble School Corporation in 1967 and continued as a grade school until 1983.

Ligonier

The fist settler in the area was Jacob Wolf in 1831. The town of Ligonier was platted in 1835 by Isaac Cavin, one year before Noble County was organized. It was part of LaGrange County at that time. He owned 80 acres where Ligonier now stands. With the Elkhart River flowing through Ligonier and the Northern Indiana Railroad coming through in 1858, Ligonier continued to grow to 2000 people by 1880.

Several families of Jewish businessmen came to Ligonier in the 1800s and the town greatly thrived as a result. Many former Jewish homes still exist and are well maintained today. Most of them are on Cavin and Main Street.

As with most locations, the first school was a primative log structure, built in 1837. It was used intil 1851, when a small frame structure, known as the "Red Schoolhouse" was built. Another frame building was built in 1857 on the north side of town. It was called the "White Schoolhouse". This was used intil 1873. In 1865, a three-story, brick school building was erected on the town square, where the Carnegie Library now stands. This was called the Central School. By 1876 Ligonier needed a new, modern building. A three-story brick building was built on Grand St. Two wings were added in 1911 and a gym in 1928. All are gone now and on the site stands the Ligonier Elementary School which is part of the West Noble School Corporation formed in 1967. There was also a brick school built on Water St. in 1915 that still stands.

One of Ligonier's most prominent citizens was Dwight Green. He was born and raised in Ligonier and graduated from Ligonier High School in 1915. He attended Wabash College from 1915 to 1917. His education was interrupted by WWI and he served as an army pilot and flying instructor. After the war he obtained a degree from Stanford in 1919 and earned a law degree from the University of Chicago in 1922. He assisted in prosecuting the infamous Al Capone and later became the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Illinios. In 1941, he was elected Governor of Illinois and served two terms. He died in 1958, at the age of 61 and is buried in Rosehill Cemetery in Chicago.

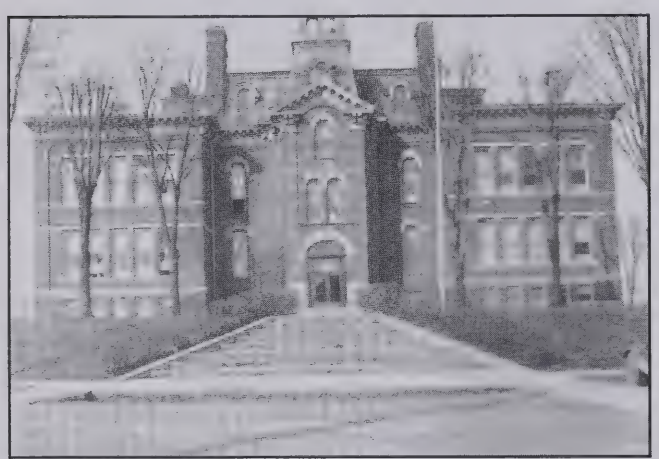
Perry Township

1 Fair View (or Stage) School

Section 13 – 700W & 900N – NE Corner

2 Original Ligonier High School

Built 1876 – Grand Street – Ligonier



Ligonier High School

With Additions
Grand Street – Ligonier

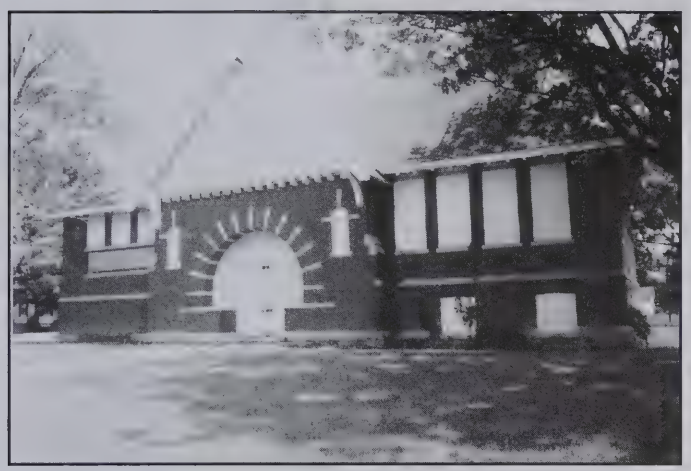
Ligonier High School

Grand Street – Ligonier
Ligonier Elementary School
On The Site Now

"Ligonier High School freshmen girls are now treated to Physical Education classes twice a week. This sort of play stimulates the mind and brings about quicker and more accurate thinking. The teacher, Miss Palin, also strives to correct physical defects with the exercises. The girls are instructed in marching tactics and games of all sorts, including basket-ball and base-ball."

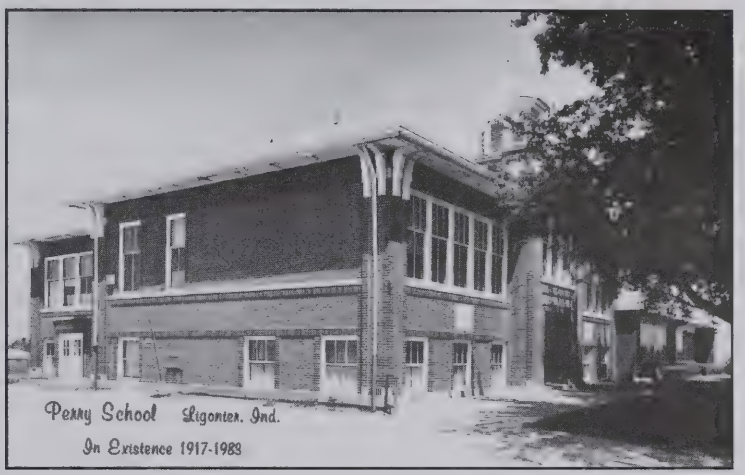
1927 Ligonier High School L'Ennial yearbook

Perry Township



3 Ligonier Northside School

Built 1915 – Closed 1940
Water Street in Ligonier
Now Apartments



4 Perry School

Built 1917 – Kindergarten through 8th grade
Section 15 – 900N & 870W
Now A Church

Perry Township Schools Not Pictured:

5 Brush College

Section 35 – 750W & 650N – NW Corner

6 Burr Oak

Section 7 – 1100W & 1100N – SW Corner

7 Buzzard's Glory

Section 18 – 1160W & 950N

8 Good Hope

Section 9 – 900W & 1000N – NW Corner

9 Harper's Ferry or Henpeck

Section 26 – 700W & 800N – SW Corner

10 Independence School

Section 15 – 800W & 900N – NW Corner

11 Shobe or Hopewell School

Section 32 – 1050W & 675N

12 Spring Hill School

Section 17 – 1100W & 900N – NE Corner

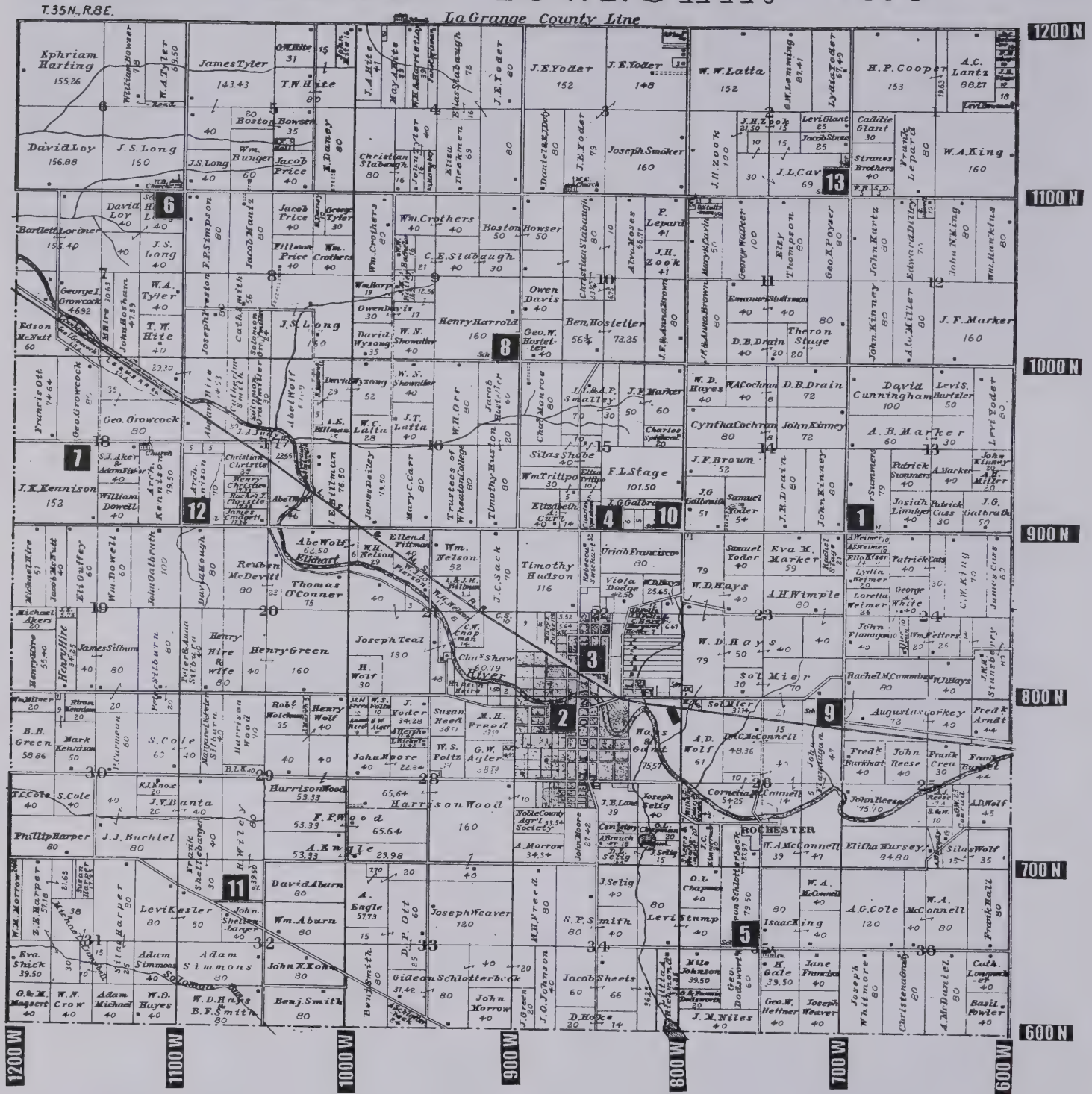
13 Union or Bowser School

Section 2 – 700W & 1100N – NW Corner

"In the center of the school was a big cast iron stove. During the cold weather the stove was always hot and on special days there would be a large kettle put on the stove so that students would have some kind of warm meal such as soup or beef & noodles."

Don Bortner, student at Jefferson Center 1930s

PERRY TOWNSHIP. - 1893



Sparta Township

The first settler in Sparta Township and the sixth in the county was John Powers in 1832. He lived for a time in a cave! In 1836 Sparta, now Kimmell, became the first town in the township and was also the county seat for two years. Sparta was on the Fort Wayne-Goshen Trail, now U.S. 33.

Cromwell, the only other town in Sparta Township, was laid out in 1853. Cromwell grew slowly, but was the main center of activity and commerce in the township.

Near Indian Village, was the reservation of Chief Papakeechie or "Flat Belly", a Potawatomie. The U.S. government ordered a brick house built for the chief in 1821 by terms of an 1816 treaty with the Indians.

Cromwell Schools:

1840 – log building near Railroad Depot

1860 – Frame building west of Lutheran Church

1878 – Brick building – 2 story

1911 – Brick building – Gym and later addition remain as a communtiy center

Kimmell School:

1902 – 2-room school built – still standing as a dwelling

Sparta Township consolidated with Elkhart Township, Perry Township, and Washington Township to form West Noble School Corporation in 1967. Cromwell was used as a grade school until 1983. At the time, the old school was torn down. The Cromwell gym ånd a new addition to the school were retained as a communtiy center and are still used at present.

Reliable information on Noble County's earliest schools is sparse and at times contradictory.

Such a contradiction is found in Goodspeed's "History of Noble County" published in 1882. It is the most reliable reference for the period from 1836, when the county was organized, to 1880, when the book's authors concluded their research. But when we perused it for information on early teachers and schools, it was apparent that some matters will be lost in the mists of history, never to be resolved.

Such is the case with one of the county's earliest schoolmarms – Miss Achsa "Axy" Kent. She is claimed by both Sparta and Perry townships as their first teacher – in 1837.

As for Sparta she is declared to be instructor of the township's first school in 1837, with the writer adding that he had "been unable to learn anything regarding this school."

Miss Kent's heroic role during the malaria epidemic which swept through northern Indiana in 1838 is well documented though.

"In the whole village," wrote early Noble County pioneer Nelson Prentiss, "only two people were able to go from house to house and these two were busy day and night ministering to the suffering with the most unselfish devotion. Their names deserve to be held in grateful remembrance as long as a pioneer or any of his descendants survive."

Prentiss then named the two, "Mr. Dorus Swift and Miss Achsa Kent."

Sparta Township

1 Broadway School

Section 27 – 900W & 100N
NE Corner – Still Standing

2 Cromwell School

Built 1911 – Gym And Later Addition
Still In Use As Community Center
2 Blocks West Of S. Rd. 5 NW Part Of Cromwell

3 Greencastle School

Built 1879
Section 8 – 1075W & 475N
Still Standing

4 Kimmell Grade School

Built 1902
Two Blocks East Of US 33 SE Part
Of Kimmell – Now Apartments

"In 1900 Noble County had about 100 one-room schools with some enrollments reaching 60 or more. Each teacher taught all pupils from age 6, sometimes 5, through 18 or 20, if they wished to attend school that long – and some did. In the absence of other activities, to the older students school was just a social gathering."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

Sparta Township

5 Spangle School

Section 36 – 675W & 100N
SE Corner

6 Stone's Hill School

Section 3 – Junction of State Road 5 &
US 33 – NW Corner

Spangle School Students – 1908

Teacher Golda Weade

"My father owned and operated a dairy where he bottled and sold milk in Albion and around Skinner Lake. On occasion he would bring down half pints of chocolate milk for an extra special treat."

- Don Bortner, student at Jefferson Center 1930s

Sparta Township Schools Not Pictured:

7 Indian Village School

Section 30 – 1125W (St. Rd. 5)
& 100N – Church on Site Now

8 Kreager School

Section 18 – 1100W & 300N
NW Corner

9 Pleasant Valley School

Section 22 – 850W
Cromwell Rd. – South Side

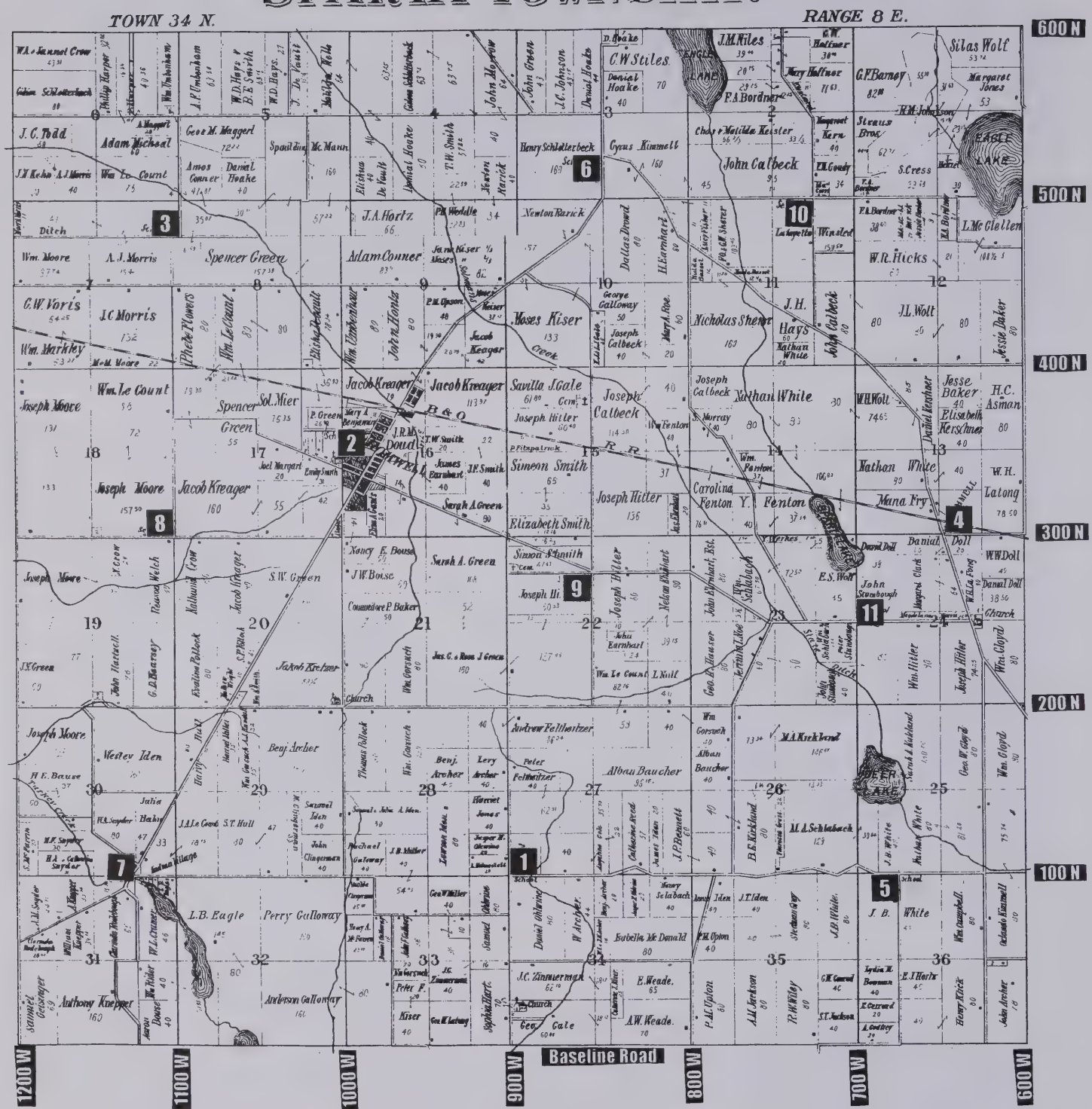
10 Slusser or Schlosser

Section 11 – 725W & 500N
SW Corner

11 Sparta School

Section 24 – 700W &
Cromwell Rd.
North Side Of Road

SPARTA TOWNSHIP. - 1893



Swan Township

Located in the southeast corner of Noble County, Swan is the township closest to Fort Wayne.

It was traversed by the north-south Lima Road (later Old State Road 3) which ran from Fort Wayne to Lima (Howe) seat of LaGrange County from 1833 to 1844.

Along this roadway, which for a short time in the 1840s became the short-lived Lima Plank Road, the only platted towns in the township were located.

In the early autumn of 1833 George Rickard, a native of Jefferson County in upstate New York, settled on an eighty-acre spread to become the township's first permanent settler. Taking advantage of the steady traffic along the Lima Road, he opened his home as a place of hospitality which came to be known as the "Buck Horn Tavern," for the pair of large buck horns he mounted on the front of the building.

The township had only three settlements of any note – Swan and LaOtto (formerly Grand Rapids Crossing at the junction of two railroads) on Lima Road, and Ege, which grew up around the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, rectory, school, and cemetery at CR 400S and 700E.

It was on Lima Road, just a short distance north of Swan, that a log schoolhouse was built in 1838. The year before that Miss Eliza Parker had taught in a nearby abandoned building. She was paid $28 and board for the six-month term.

Cordelia Broughton was the first teacher in the 1838 log school, presiding there for three consecutive summers, before being succeeded by her sister Lucy.

Miss Jane Bailey, next teacher at this school, was said to have been a "wee woman, but with enough courage for a half-dozen ordinary females." Courage was perhaps the most valuable attribute of pioneer school teachers.

This old schoolhouse was in use until 1855, when a frame building was put up. In 1875 it was replaced by a two-story brick graded school on LaOtto's south side, said to have been "one of the finest in the county" at the time.

The second schoolhouse appeared in about 1842 not far from Buckhorn Tavern. A year or two later a third school was built in Section 7, the next in the Fulk neighborhood in the southwest corner of the township.

By 1901 Swan had eight one-room schoolhouses – Preston, Hooper, Hopewell, Miller, Swan, Haag, Fulk, and Kugler. Most were named for nearby landowners.

"When Louisa Clark taught at Mullin School she had no clock or watch to tell the time so she had her sister Emma at home a half mile away hang out a sheet .When the sheet appeared Louisa knew it was time to dismiss for recess, noon, or for the day."

- Helen Dawson Miller, early Noble County student and teacher

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Swan Township

1 Haag School

Built 1906

Section 28 – 875E & 500S – NE Corner

2 Hopewell School

Built 1899

Section 8 – Hopewell Rd. & 725E

NE Corner

3 LaOtto School

Built 1901

Section 25 – West of

St. Rd. 3 at Corner of

Bilger and Tamarack Streets

LaOtto School

Renovated and Gymnasium

Added in 1918

Swan Township

4 Swan Center School

Section 16

Swan Rd. and about 875E

5 Swan School

Built 1915

Section 13 – In Swan

East of St. Rd. 3 on Dead End Street

Now A Residence

Swan Township Schools Not Pictured:

6 Fulk School

Section 32

500S & 700E – SE Corner

7 Hooper School

Section 3

East Side of Intersection of Hopewell Road & 900E

8 Kugler School

Section 23 – 375S & 1000E – SE Corner

9 Miller School

Section 20 – 300S & 700E – SE Corner

10 Preston School

Section 11

South Side of 100S About 1075E

11 Salem School

Section 26

North Side of 500S About 1050E

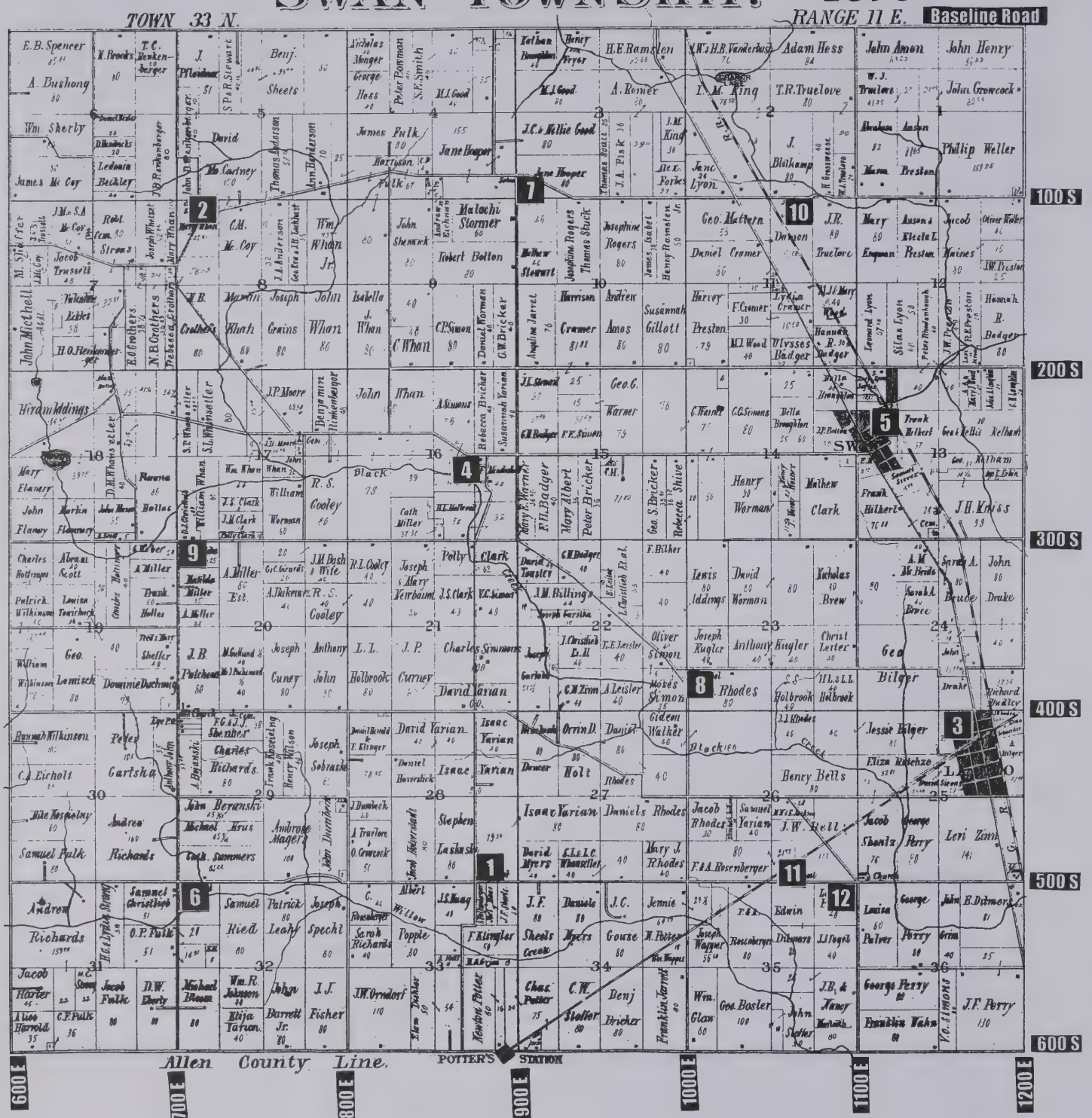
12 Rosenberger School

Section 35 – 500S & 1100E – SW Corner

"When my folks went to Number 7 (Mullin School in York Township) the building was made of logs. The cracks in the floor were so wide that if the pupils dropped their slate pencils, they would roll down through the cracks and the boys would crawl under the building at recess to recover them."

- Helen Dawson Miller, early Noble County student and teacher

SWAN TOWNSHIP. - 1893



Washington Township

The first settler was a Mr. Roop in 1833. He brought his wife and six children with him to settle in this frontier land. Bears and wolves were a common sight at that time. A very important industry for the pioneers was a grist or flouring mill. There they could get corn and wheat ground, thus saving them a tremendous amount of manual labor. John Rider built an earthen dam near the headwaters of the Tippecanoe River at a place later called Wilmot. In 1848, he had a water-powered saw mill, another vital item for the pioneer and several years later added a grist mill. After extensive rebuilding and modifications, the old mill site is still in operation as a grist mill and sells specialty milled products. It is listed on the Indiana Registry of Historic Places.

Like many townships, the first "schools" were in private homes. Later, small cabins were built for this purpose. 1837 saw the beginnings of education in Washington Township. By 1848, nearly every district had a school of some sort. As with the other townships, frame buildings replaced log cabins and eventually by the late 1800s, the famous one-room brick schools were constructed. Perhaps the most notable one-room school graduate was Dr. Lloyd Douglas, author and minister. Among his works was "Magnificent Obsession", "The Robe, and "The Big Fisherman". He completed 8th grade at the Salem one-room school in 1892.

Washington Township schools consolidated into Washington Center in 1925, with the construction of a 4-room, 2-story brick school housing all eight grades on 915W & 1782S., south of Gilbert Lake.

Sadly, all of the one-room schools and Washington Center School have disappeared from the scene.

Washington Township students went on to high school at Wolf Lake until 1967, when they were annexed by West Noble School Corporation, with the new high school at the junction of U.S. 33 & St. Rd. 5, south of Ligonier.

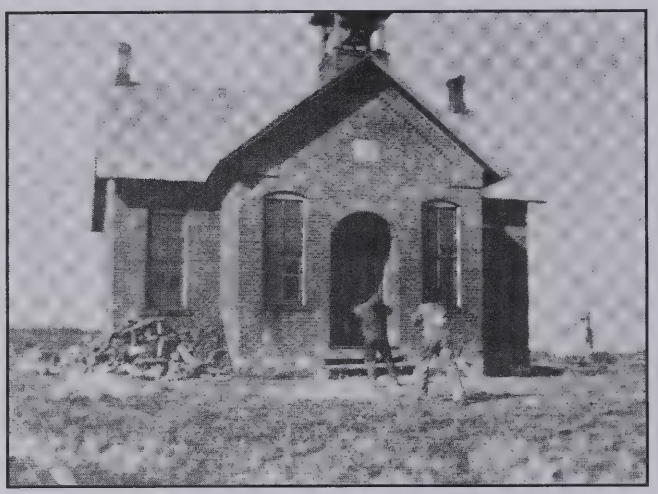
Brushwood School

Crowd gathers at Brushwood school for special event in early 1900s

Washington Township

1 Brushwood School

Built 1899
Section 22 – 875W & 350S
South Side Of Road At Horseshoe Lake



2 Galloway School

Built 1894
Section 4 – 900W & 50S – SW Corner

3 Salem School

Built 1860
Section 20 – 1100W & 325S – SE Corner
North Side of 325S

4 Oak Hill or Knapp School

Built 1897
Section 24 – 700W & 300S
SE Corner

"In those early days, there were no fringe benefits, such as sick leave, pensions, severance pay or teachers' aides. If a teacher missed any time it was her loss unless she made it up on Saturdays or at the end of the term."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP

5 STRINGTOWN SCHOOL

BUILT 1899

SECTION 11 – 700W & 100S – SW CORNER

6 WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOL

BUILT 1925 – EIGHT GRADES – FOUR ROOMS

SECTION 9 – 925W & 175S – WEST SIDE OF ROAD

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP SCHOOLS NOT PICTURED:

7 CENTER SCHOOL

SECTION 15 – 900W & 200S

SE CORNER

8 GROUNDHOG SCHOOL

SECTION 6 – 1100W & 100S

NW CORNER

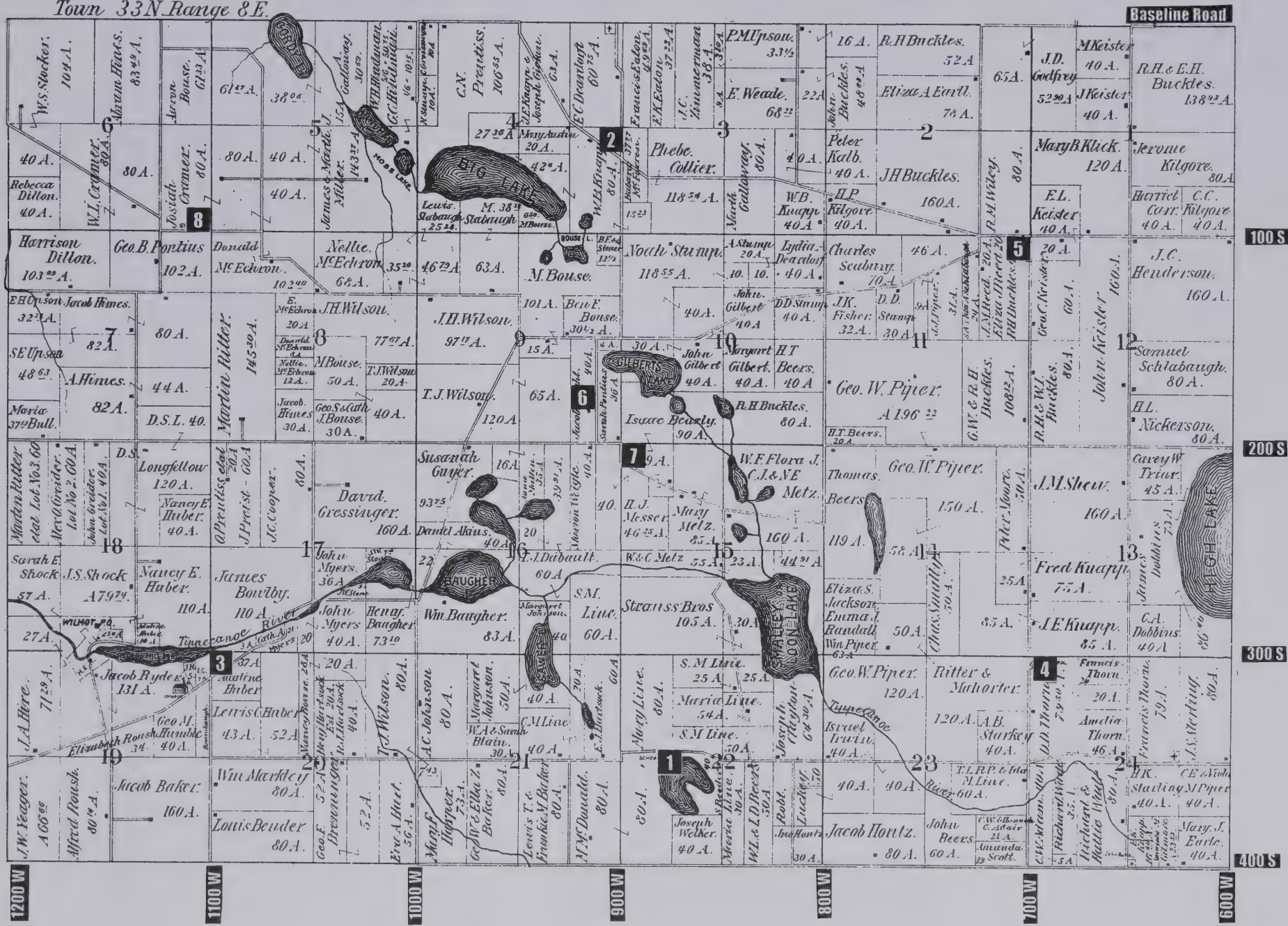
KNAPP SCHOOL

FRANK WINEBRENNER – TEACHER

"The most recently built one-room school buildings were a bit more modern. An entrance extension appears on the front. On either side of the entrance was a small room for wraps and lunch buckets. Steps might lead to the basement from one of these small rooms. Coal, which was kept in the basement, was used for fuel in a floor furnace on the main floor or in a one-register furnace in the basement."

– Thurlo Holcomb, early Noble County teacher and historian

WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP. - 1893



Wayne Township

The first log cabin in Wayne Township was erected in 1832 by David Bundle on South Main Street, Kendallville. The Fort Wayne to Lima (now Howe) Plank Road would pass through Wayne Township and this greatly facilitated the settlement. Later on it would be part of the Underground Railroad network that transported fugitive slaves on their way to Canada and freedom.

The first schoolhouse was erected in 1838 on the farm of the heirs of John Sawyer. It was made of round logs and quite small. The first teacher was Joseph White and he received $1.00 per term per student and free room and board from local families. Everyone seemed to want a school near their home. As a result, there were 14 by 1851.

The brick one-room schools of the late 1800s and early 1900s number 12, more than most townships.

An early consolidated school for Wayne Township was built on 900 N & 900E and called Wayne Center. It was built in 1924 for grades one through eight. It became part of East Noble School Corporation in 1967 and is still used as a grade school today.

Kendallville

William Mitchell came to the area of Kendallville in 1836 and purchased some 500 acres. By 1840, about 35 or 40 people inhabited what would become Kendallville. It was named after the Postmaster General of the United States, Amos Kendall. Kendallville began to grow and by 1852, when it was certain the Southern Michigan & Northern Indiana Railroad would pass through Kendallville, it's future was secured. Being on the Lima Plank Road from Fort Wayne also helped the development and growth. In 1863, Kendallville became Noble County's first incorporated city. Another factor in Kendallville's growth was the building of a North/South railroad from Hartford City, through Fort Wayne, Kendallville and on to Grand Rapids, Michigan. Thus, in 1873, Kendallville was the intersection of two railroads. The name of the north/south railroad was the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad Company.

The first school near Kendallville was one mile and a half northwest, a log building on the Sawyer farm around 1838. Soon after, another schoolhouse was built nearer to town and called the Iddings School. In 1847, another log school was built on the Allen-Wayne Township line, which intersects the south part of Kendallville, a little west of the Fort Wayne Road. We know this township line road now as the Drake Road. No schoolhouse was constructed in the town proper intil 1858, when a three-storey frame school was erected at the cost of $3,500. It stood near the site of the old Kendallville High School at Diamond and Riley Streets. This building was used as a temporary hospital for soldiers during the Civil War. A smallpox epidemic caused great concern among parents and soon after the troops left someone burned down the

school. A new school was built on the old site in 1864 and called Central School. It was a fine school with three stories and 13 rooms.

In 1908, a grade school was built on North Railroad Street, north of the railroad tracks to accommodate grades one through four. It was first called North Ward and later changed to Riley, in honor of James Whitcomb Riley, the famed Hoosier poet.

As Kendallville continued to grow and prosper, there was a need for new, larger high school. In 1905, a new high school was built just north of the old Central School. The Central School was demolished in 1938. By 1915, another school building was built adjacent to the 1905 structure. With additions and updates, the core of this building is part of Kendallville Middle School, which is part of East Noble School Corporation. The 1915 building was enlarged in 1925 and a new gym and manual training facilities were added.

Kendallville, Avilla, Rome City, as well as Orange, Wayne, Allen and Swan Townships were incorporated as East Noble High School in 1967. A new high school was built southwest of Bixler Lake in Allen Township.

Probably Kendallville's most distinguished graduate was Dr. Harold Urey, who graduated in 1911. He taught for one year at the Oak Grove one-room school in York Township. He then moved to Montana to be with his family and eventually graduated from University of Montana in 1917, with a major in Biology and Chemistry. Later, he attended University of California-Berkeley and received his Doctorate in Chemistry in 1923. This led to the discovery of heavy hydrogen isotope mass two, named deuterium or "heavy water". He was awarded the Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1934. During WWII he was part of the team working on the Manhattan Project that led to the development of the atomic bomb.

KENDALLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL 1913 TRACK TEAM

FRONT ROW FROM LEFT:
CLARENCE BRILLHART
FLOYD FULLERTON
HOY HINKLEY
BACK ROW FROM LEFT:
DON BROUSE
WILL COOKERLY
PEYTON GOODWIN
FRED BAUGHMAN, CAPT.
CARL TRAXLER

Wayne Township

1 Centennial School

Section 2 – 1100E & 1100N NW Corner

2 Wayne Center School

Built 1885 – Section 15 – 900E & 900N
NE Corner – Still Standing

3 Longyear School

Section 16 – St. Rd. 3 & 900N
NE Corner – Still Standing

4 Stoney Ridge or Muskrat School

Section 15 – 1000E & 1000N
SW Corner

5 Oviatt School

Built 1880
Section 19 – Angling Rd & 900N
SE Corner

WAYNE TOWNSHIP

6 POPPY SCHOOL

BUILT 1876
SECTION 26 – 1000E & 750N – NE CORNER

7 ROBERTS SCHOOL

BUILT 1886 – SECTION 35 – 1000E & 650N
NE CORNER – NOW A RESIDENCE

8 SAWYER SCHOOL

SECTION 31 – 660E & U.S. 6
NOW A RESIDENCE

9 WARBLE OR OAK GROVE SCHOOL

SECTION 8 – WEST SIDE OF ST. RD. 3
ABOUT 1025N – NOW A RESIDENCE

10 NORTH SCHOOL

BUILT 1908
SECTION 33 – WAYNE & RILEY STREETS

Wayne Township

11 Wayne Center School

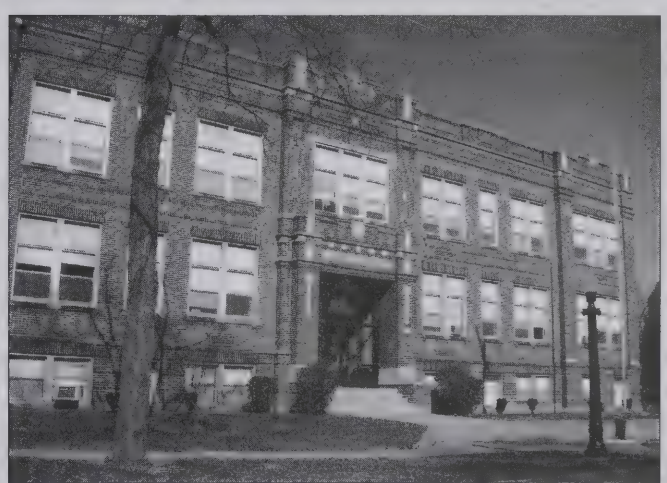
Built 1924
Grade School Still In Use
Section 15 – 900E & 900N South Side of 900N

12 Central School

Built 1864 – Kendallville
NE Corner of Diamond & Riley Streets
Demolished in 1938

13 Kendallville High School

Built 1905
Riley Street North of Central School



14 Kendallville High School

Built 1915 – Kendallville
Now Core of Kendallvile Middle School
On East Diamond Street

Wayne Township Schools Not Pictured:

15 Forker School

Section 31 – 600E & 600N
NE Corner

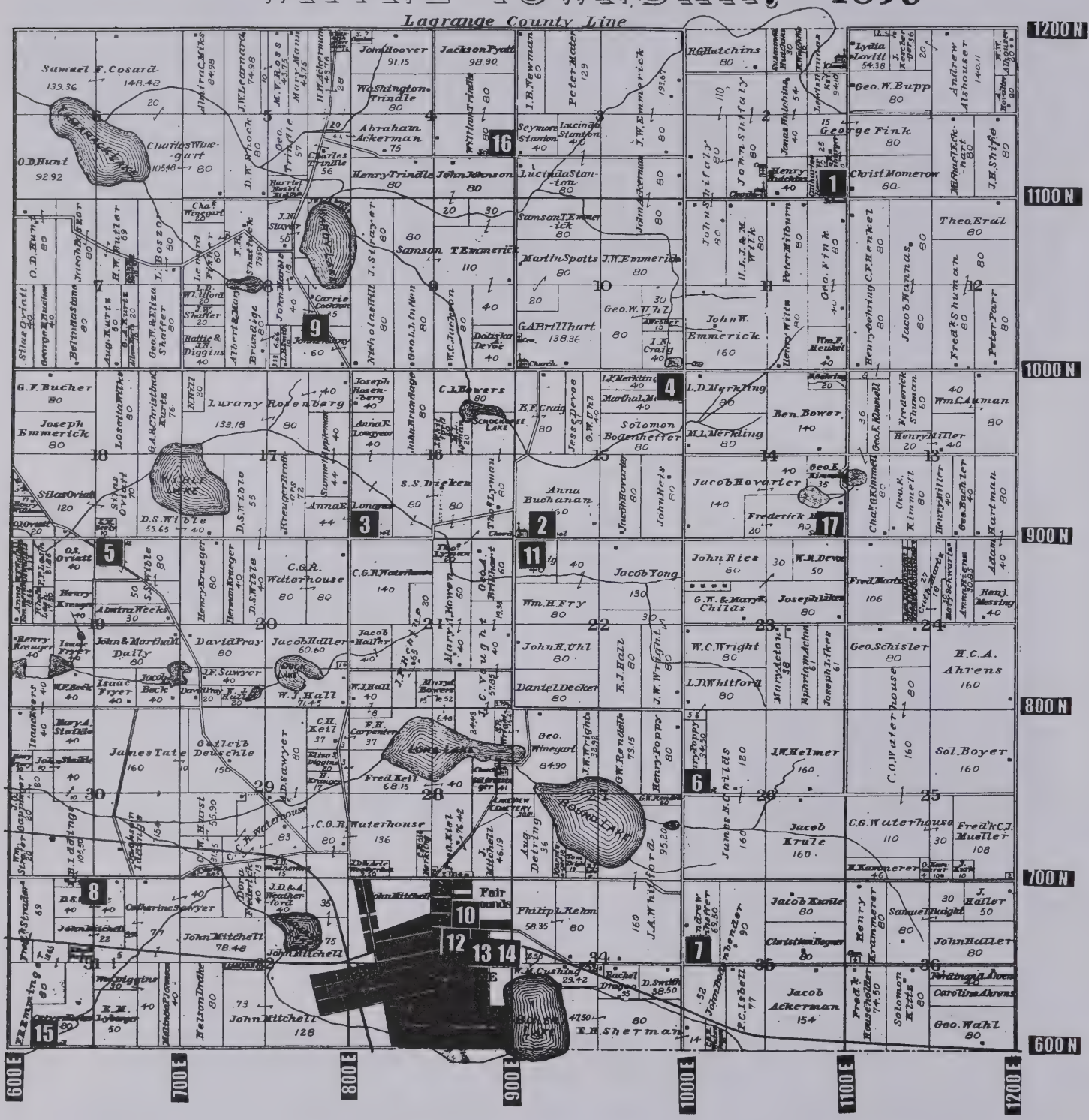
16 Grannis School

Section 4 – 900E & 1125N
NW Corner

17 Kimmel School

Section 14 – 1100E & 900N
NW Corner

WAYNE TOWNSHIP. - 1893



York Township

York Township's first schoolhouse, a rough, log structure, was put up in Section 29, in 1840, construction being accomplished in a single day.

Members of the work party were David Anderson, Vincent Lane, Joseph Bradford, John Williams, Elisha Blackman, James Gray, and Mrs. Morris, as well as several others from the neighborhood.

All were "prominent and sensible," it was recorded in Goodspeed's 1882 history, "and took interest and pride in the advancement of their children."

It is said that the township was named York because many of its pioneer settlers were from New York State.

Maintaining schools at that early time was difficult, the primary obstacle being a lack of funds to pay teachers: "The giant Poverty stood in the way," declared Goodspeed. Section 16 of York sold at $1.25 an acre, one eighty was sold at $2 an acre, and one quarter-section for $8 per acre. The latter contained valuable beds of bog-iron and was purchased by men at Rochester on the Elkhart River's north branch engaged in the manufacture of bar-iron.

The first term of school at Augusta, which served as the county seat from 1837 to 1844, began the first Monday of January, 1840, in a building later used as an office for county clerk Wesley White. This school closed not long after the county seat moved to Port Mitchell in 1844. After it moved again – finally – to Albion in 1846, a school was built just south of John Bowman's residence about 1850.

York Township Schools Bus Drivers – 1930s

From left: Fred Huff, Frank Willits, Carl Herron, Porter Black, Harley Yant and Clinton Weber.

York Township

1 Oak Grove School

Built 1898
Section 2 – 100W & 500N – NW Corner
Still Standing

2 Pleasant Hill School

Built 1880
Section 4 – 350W & 525N – NE Corner
Still Standing

3 Port Mitchell School

Pictured Newly Built in 1913
Section 26 – 100N & 100W
North Side of Road

Port Mitchell School

Pictured in 2005
Section 26 – 100N & 100W
North Side of Road – Now A Residence

York Township Schools Not Pictured:

4 Crow Hill School

Section 29 – 500W & 100N
NE Corner

5 Lake Lucid or Blackman School

Section 19 – 500W & 300N
SW Corner

6 Mullin School

Section 34 – 100N & 350W
SE Corner

York Township

7 Port Mitchell School

Section 35 – Wolf Lake Road near
Port Mitchell – Now a Residence

8 Pucker Street School

Built 1885 – Section 7 – West Side of
500W between Albion Road & 500N
Now a Residence

9 Old York Center School

Section 15 – 250W & 350N – NE Corner

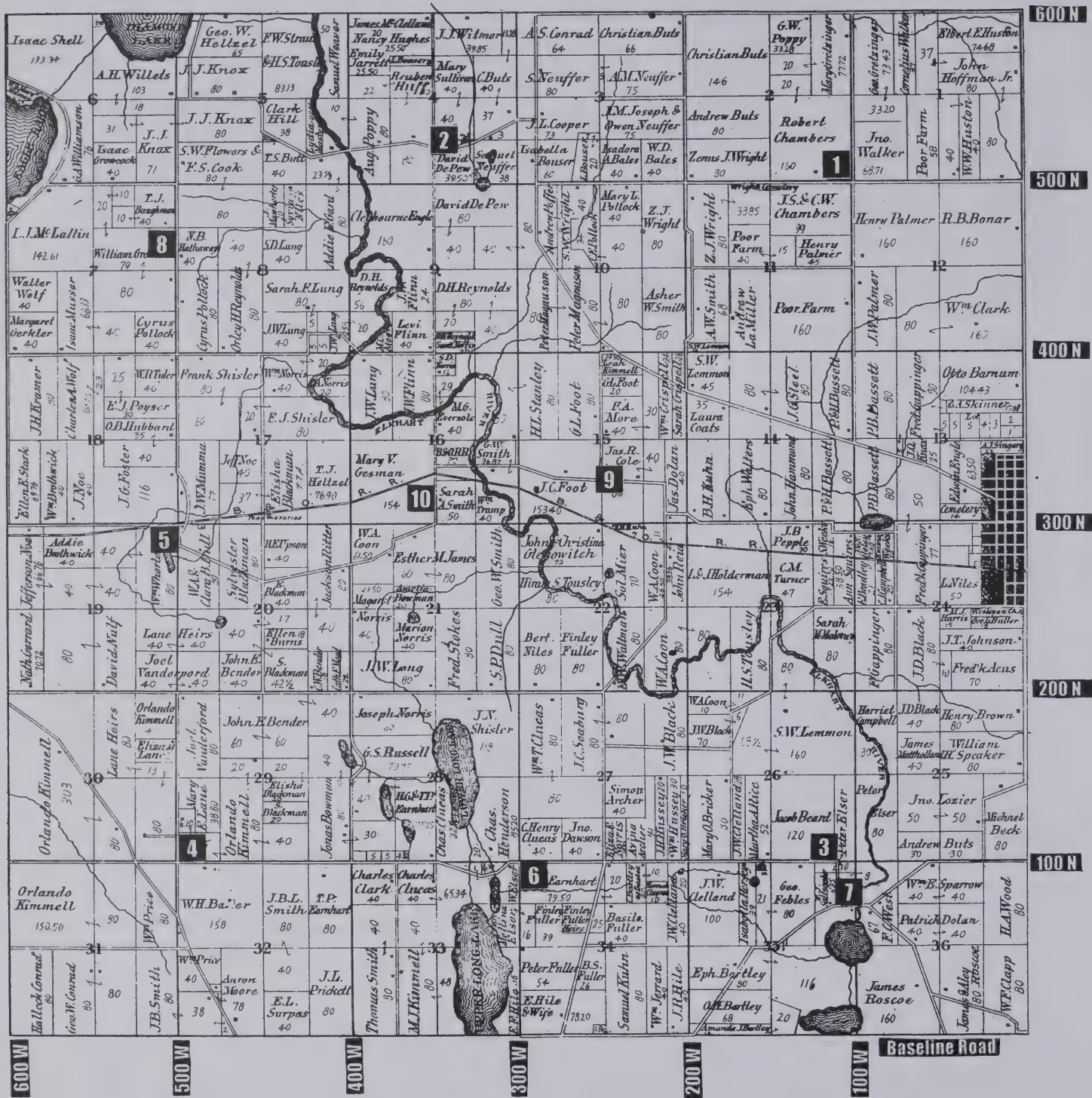
10 York Center School

Built 1929
Section 16 – 350W About 300N
Now a Church Facility

"After the first year we were transferred to Port Mitchell School and were taken to school in a "hack" driven by Enoch Shisler. The hack was a big top-heavy wooden affair with a long bench along each side to sit on. The door was in the back. Roy DePew and David Bonar were "doormen" stationed to help the smaller children up the high steps into the hack. The only resemblance to the buses of today is that they were painted yellow."

- Helen Dawson Miller, early Noble County student and teacher

YORK TOWNSHIP. - 1893



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